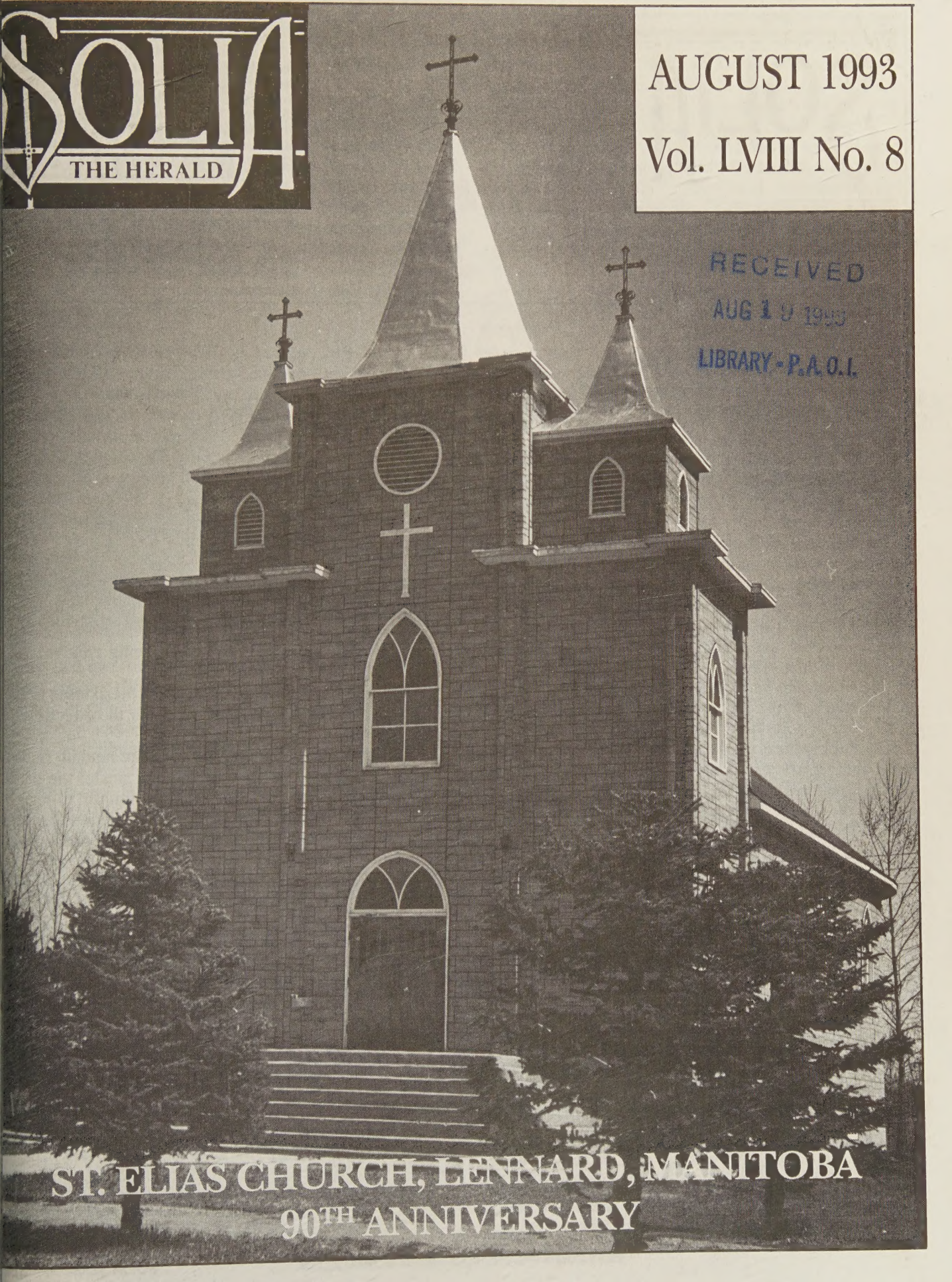


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ST. ELIAS CHURCH, LENNARD, MANITOBA
90TH ANNIVERSARY

SOLIA

THE
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ST. ELIAS, 90TH ANNIVERSARY

On Easter Sunday, 1902, Romanian and Ukrainian pioneers in the Inglis and Lennard, Manitoba area held services in the open air and then set out to build a sod church which continued to serve their needs until 1908.

At that time, Ilie Burla donated two acres of land, and in time, a lumber and plaster church, in the style of churches in Bucovina, was erected. Later, in 1939, on an acre of land given by Ioan Paulencu, a parish house was built. The church still stands, but it has been made over into a museum and is on the official register of the Province of Manitoba.

The third church, the one featured on our **SOLIA** cover, was begun in 1952 with the work continuing over a ten year period. Peter Gaber was the "architect", and the faithful themselves erected the church in which the 90th anniversary was celebrated on July 17th and 18th.

On Saturday morning, Rev. Fr. Joseph MacLellan served the Divine Liturgy in the Museum Church. His Grace, Bishop NATHANIEL, was present for the Vigil service celebrated by V. Rev. Nicolae Marioncu, Dean of Canada and Rev. Fr. Mirone Klysh of St. George, Winnipeg. Following the service, the faithful met with His Grace in the church parlors for refreshments and a birthday tribute to Fr. Joseph.

Although the weather had been dismal and wet for the previous week, the sun shone brightly, or at least, through the clouds. Sunday morn came clear and bright as faithful and families, friends and well-wishers came from across Canada to St. Elias's 90th Anniversary Celebration.

His Grace was greeted at the doors of the church by Council President, Bill Burla who presented the traditional gifts of bread and salt. Serving clergy, Archpriest Nicolae Marioncu, Rev. Frs. Joseph MacLellan, administrator, Mirone Klysh of St. George, Winnipeg, Stephen Kennaugh of St. Nicholas, Diocese of Canada, Sandy Lake; Victor Milanka of St. Demetrius, Romanian Archdiocese, met the Bishop at the doors of the church and



The church built in 1908 before being renovated

assisted the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy. Responses to the services were by the parish choir under the direction of Vera Burla.

His Grace preached after the scripture reading on the gospel of the day: Christ forgiving the sins of the paralytic and healing him. He exhorted the faithful to reflect on the great gift that God gives to humankind through the forgiveness of sins and the establishment of the Holy Mystery of Confession.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, His Grace also gave a second homily on living in the Kingdom of God and the promise of the resurrection into the fullness of the Kingdom which is to come. "We are living in the Kingdom of God now, as our Lord said: 'The Kingdom of God is among you'; therefore, we are living in the presence of God now and must make use of our time now and make our talents bear fruit. God does not wait for us to 'mark time' until he comes. We are his stewards and must share the message of his love, compassion, forgiveness and transfiguration with the world in which we live."

Following the last blessing, clergy and faithful walked in procession to the outside altar where water was blessed and then sprinkled in the church, around the church, the old museum church, cemetery and to the Paulencu House.

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Episcopate Congress 1993

The 61st Episcopate Congress was a gathering of clergy and lay delegates from across North America. Many delegates were representing their parishes or auxiliaries for the first time. Called for a special Legislative Congress, they anticipated discussion and action on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, as well as action on the reports by the Diocesan Administration.

The day before the Congress met in session, the annual conference of the clergy was held.

CLERGY CONFERENCE, Thursday, July 1

Very Rev. Laurence Lazar, Episcopate Council Secretary, celebrated the Divine Liturgy in the St. Mary Pioneer Chapel on Thursday morning during which the attending clergy received the Holy Body and Blood of the Lord, the Good Shepherd of mankind.

The agenda of the Clergy Conference included the following matters:

Administrative Concerns of parish administration and responsibilities toward the Episcopate Office. In addition, time was spent discussing the OCA Pension Plan and the requirement that all clergy and parishes participate in it. Some concern was stated over the difficulty which some clergy experience in receiving pension benefits; other statements praised the plan. Everyone agreed that the plan is needed but that there are still some "rough" surfaces which need polishing.

Participation in the OCA Health Plan was also a lively subject of discussion. The fathers were reminded that the plan is not administered by the OCA but is a plan tailored for us. It was also the general opinion that the plan is a good one, but there are administrative procedures which need to be clarified. A special meeting of clergy with the Plan's Group Leader will be held in Warren, Ohio, and the results will be sent to the clergy through the Episcopate Office.

Pastoral Concerns centered on the "Frequency of Receiving the Holy Eucharist", a theme presented at previous conferences. An article by His Grace, Bishop SERAPHIM (Joanta), in which he reviewed the present concept of infrequent communion, as practiced in the Church in Romania, was the basis for consideration of the subject. He argues that frequent communion is the true tradition of the Church.

Future Deanery meetings will discuss the topic and will report to the Episcopate Office the observations and concerns of the clergy and laity in regard to this Holy Mystery.

External Affairs matters centered on the report of the Inter-Diocesan Joint Committee which met at Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Ellwood City, Pennsylvania, June 15, 1993. The committee was to meet and discuss the present status between the Romanian Orthodox Episco-

pate of America and the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese of America and Canada. Although there are no real canonical issues, the clergy have not been serving together. After their initial meeting, the members issued a statement which was sent to the hierarchs of the two dioceses.

The clergy heard the statement and unanimously endorsed the recommendation to the hierarchs that, "full, normal ecclesial relations be restored immediately between our respective dioceses." The scope of the statement became recommendations to the Episcopate Council and the Congress (See "Statement" elsewhere in this issue).

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws as mailed to the delegates were discussed. General consensus was that the amendments did reflect the concerns of deaneries and parishes, as well as, of some individuals. The clergy were prepared to discuss and vote on the amendments.

General matters included the proposed 1994 celebrations of the Episcopate's 65th Anniversary and the 200th of Orthodoxy in North America.

Evening Activities, following Vespers, included supper and a reception hosted by ARFORA in the Bishop's Residence for all delegates.

EPISCOPATE COUNCIL MEETING, Thursday, July 1

The Episcopate Council met at the Valerian D. Trifa Heritage Center to review the Report to the Congress and prepare final recommendations for presentation to the Congress.

In the order of business, the Fathers Roman Braga, Richard Grabowski, Catalin Mitescu and Constantin Tofan were accredited for the 1993 61st Congress sessions.

The Council also officially recognized the following as mission communities: **Entrance of Our Lord, Hazelton, PA; St. Ann, Jacksonville, FL; St. Mary of Magdala, Houston, TX; Sts. Michael and Gabriel, Sacramento, CA; Sts. Constantine and Helen, Atlanta, GA.**

A petition from St. George parish, New York, was heard; action was tabled, pending further information.

Members of the Council were given highlights of a "Due Diligence Report" from architect Susan M. Nelson, AIA, covering all the Vatra properties. The "bottom line" shows that maintenance/repair items which need immediate attention total \$91,700 with an additional \$244,150 needed over the next five years.

Department budgets: Publications \$118,000.00; Missions \$41,800.00; Christian Assistance \$55,000.00 were reviewed and approved. The **Episcopate Administrative Budget of \$334,100.00** was reviewed and approved. Total budget operation for 1993-94: **\$548,900.00.**

The Council reviewed the **Statement** of the Inter-Diocesan Joint Committee, heard the recommendation from the Clergy Conference and acted to endorse the

Continued on page 4

recommendation.

An article in The Orthodox Church newspaper of The Orthodox Church in America (TOC), "On The Question Of Equal Financial Participation", was discussed. In essence, the Episcopate Council expressed concern that the All America Council, whose action in Miami was the basis for the article, overlooks the fact that the Bi-lateral agreement between the ROEA and OCA in 1970 was made between the Holy Synod and the Hierarchy of the ROEA and that any alterations would be enacted only through these signatories. His Grace has been asked to address Metropolitan **THEODOSIUS** and the Holy Synod in this regard.

Recommendations to be presented to the Congress were: (1) that considering the facts of the "Due Diligence Report" on the Vatra properties and the necessary repairs and projects, and the intention to purchase 35.5/40.5 acres, the Council proposes a \$10.00 per member dues increase; (2) that the Burgett property directly across from the Vatra, in the amount of 35.5/40.5 acres, should be purchased as a buffer zone.

EPISCOPATE CONGRESS, Friday, July 2

At 9:30 am, His Grace, Bishop **NATHANIEL**, offered the Invocation to the Holy Spirit in the Assembly Hall.

Roll call was taken with 104 delegates and accredited persons responding (See attendance at the end of this article), and the Chair officially opened the working session of the 61st Congress.

In addition to V. Rev. L. Lazar, Episcopate Council Secretary (ex officio), the Chair appointed: Dr. Eleanor Bujea, General Secretary; Virginia Murray, English language Secretary; and Manuela Cruga, Romanian language Secretary; Tellers, Phillip Toconita and Ionel Maiozan.

Delegates then received a copy of His Grace's Address which, although presented in English was also in a Romanian version.

HIGHLIGHTS of the Address include reminding the Congress of its responsibilities according to the By-Laws. His Grace urged participation in questioning the printed reports and in discussing and approving the various budgets.

In the section on "Preparing for the Future", the Congress was reminded that it has the authority to purchase property and that such a proposal would be forthcoming under the "Recommendations" from the Episcopate Council. The need to purchase the property directly across the street was to assure the Vatra of a "buffer" zone considering the rapid development of land in the area.

The land could potentially offer a suitable site for a new Diocesan Administration Center, since the present second story facilities are no longer adequate for the equipment, safety and space necessary for the Diocese's operations.

His Grace also proposed that living space would be necessary for an eventual Auxiliary Bishop; the freed area on the second floor of the Episcopal Residence

would be the most appropriate place.

The Chair recalled that the previous Congress rejected three various dues increase proposals and their promise to better fulfill the existing obligations a very limited response.

It was reported that the Vatra buildings had been reviewed by Architect Susan Nelson, AIA, who in "Due Diligence Report", has given the parishes the formation they need to know in order to act on financial obligations for maintenance.

Another area of Congress responsibility, His Grace pointed out, was in "**establishing the policy in external affairs.**" Reading from the 1962 publication, "A Step Forward/Un Pas Inainte" written by the late Archbishop **VALERIAN**, of thrice-blessed memory, Bishop **NATHANIEL** reminded the clergy and faithful that Archbishop had described the change in relations between the Episcopate in America and the Patriarchate in Bucharest as due to the political changes which brought the Church under control of the communist government. "The return to the previous declarations of administrative autonomy was more an act of protection than one of rebellion and which placed the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate in a provisory status."

The Bishop briefly outlined the establishment of the Inter-Diocesan Joint Committee as determined by the Episcopate Congress and then went on to describe the work and the recommendation which would be discussed in Congress session.

The Chair reviewed the work of the Committee which had received, catalogued and printed the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. "You will notice that the proposals we shall work on will enhance the roles of the laity and the clergy as equal members of the Orthodox Church which is the Body of Christ," he stated.

The Bishop then ended his address saying, "Having called down into our midst the Holy Spirit to unify our hearts and to guide us as witnesses to Holy Orthodoxy, let us not be timid, nor narrow-minded, not arrogant or triumphalistic but humbly seek to know and implement God's will through this body and take up willingly the work which was asked of us by previous Congresses."

The Address was received with applause. The Congress then entertained a motion to move the Working Session on the Constitution and By-laws from the end of the reports to a priority position on the agenda.

Members of the Amendment Committee were acknowledged: V. Rev. Frs. Lazar, Pavel, Stanciu, Dr. Schmidt, Dr. E. Bujea, E. Lipovan, J. Serban, P. Truica, chaired by His Grace, Bishop **NATHANIEL**.

The President then proposed that Attorney Robert Muresan chair the Amendment Sessions. Mr. Muresan fielded questions and the assembly decided to vote article by article. The Congress went into session as the "Committee of the Whole" in which all delegates would discuss amendments.

Before recessing for the day, the Congress then worked through the Amendments to the Constitution and through Articles I-IV of the By-Laws.

Following the sessions, Vespers was sung in the chapel of the host parish, Nativity of our Lord, Chicago, served supper to the delegates. An informal evening was enjoyed by all.

CONGRESS WORK CONTINUED on Saturday turning to the regular work of the Congress and with discussion on the Reports: Hierarchal Schedule; Status of the Clergy/ Parishes/ Special Events; Departments of Religious Education, Missions, Christian Assistance, Publications, SOLIA Newspaper, Vatra Administration. Susan Nelson, AIA, gave her report to the delegates who also requested and received a "bottom line" statement of the Vatra Maintenance report. She urged delegates to take a walk around the Vatra facilities so that they would be better able to make decisions when the time for approving the budget came around.

Returning to the witness of Orthodoxy in America, His Grace asked Father Lazar to familiarize the delegates with the Inter-Diocesan Committee and its work. The delegates followed the text of a prepared, "Statement/ Comunicat" and were informed that the Clergy Conference and the Episcopate Council had heard the same statement and had accepted it in principle. The Congress voted overwhelmingly to accept the Statement.

Attorney John J. Sibisan pointed out that because this is a canonical matter, His Grace should act as he felt proper. The Chair confirmed the statement, yet mentioned that the Bishop had wanted to know the heart of the clergy and faithful before responding to the recommendation of the Committee.

In the end, His Grace stated that he would contact Archbishop **VICTORIN** of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese to "immediately restore full, normal ecclesial relations" between the two dioceses. The Bishop related that we remain as two separate dioceses, that the results of restoring ecclesial relations means that priests from both dioceses may serve together in all sacraments and other liturgical affairs just as they now serve with their Orthodox of various jurisdictions.

According to our By-laws, a priest of either diocese must still have permission from his bishop to serve in a church of another episcopate.

Rev. Fr. Leonte Copacia, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, Mark Chestnut, gave the finance reports. Each department budget for the previous year and the proposed budget for the new year was presented and approved. It was pointed out that the \$250,000.00 received in the Settlement with First of America would go into the Trust Accounts from which it had been embezzled, since these are not Administration monies.

In reviewing the **1993 SOLIA CALENDAR** one can see which funds are "in litigation" although it does not specify which. Some are in litigation with John Nika only and others with both Nika and the Bank. These latter are the ones which will be restored percentage-wise to the Trust Accounts. The Episcopate Council will be making a final allotment of funds at a future meeting.

A motion to increase the membership dues by \$10.00

per member was made and passed. This is to begin in January of 1994.

The Congress returned to its work as a "Committee of the Whole" and after completing work on Sections V - IX voted that the Episcopate Council should meet and prepare the remainder of the text for distribution to the parishes. After receiving the text the parishes will have three months in which to respond to the text.

A slate of members for the **1993-94 Episcopate Council** was presented and accepted: Aurel Ciufecu, Bridgeport; Virginia Martin, Cleveland; George Ross, Merrillville; Dan Chirtu, Toronto; Brian McDonald, Indianapolis; Richard Rogozan, Southfield; Avram Srbu, Kitchener; John Besoiu, Youngstown; Dimitri Popovici, St. Louis; Armand Scala, Washington. Alternates, Vasile Gheorghiu, Hermitage and George Blebea, Alliance. Clergy: V. R. Laurence Lazar, Simeon Pavel, Casian Fetea, Remus Bleahu, Dan Suciuc; alternate, Fr. Remus Grama. Later, Fr. Lazar was elected Secretary; R. Rogozan, Treasurer; George Ross and John Besoiu, Auditors.

Elected to the Episcopate Tribunal were Ionel Maiogan, St. Mary, Chicago and Mihai Tipescu, Nativity of our Lord, Chicago.

At the closing of the Congress, His Grace thanked the delegates for their participation in the sessions; Mr. Muresan for chairing the "Committee of the Whole" session; the Amendment Committee; host parish, Nativity of our Lord, Chicago, Illinois, V. Rev. Fr. Simion Pavel, parish priest; the ARFORA coffee shop sponsored by the Akron Auxiliary.

Vespers were served in the chapel. Following the supper, the delegates and guests were entertained by the Eminescu Dancers of Regina, Saskatchewan. A number of suites from various provinces of Romania were performed to the delight of the audience. The group had traveled to the Vatra at its own expense (\$7,000.00).

SUNDAY, July 4, Matins was served in the main church at 8:30 am and the procession of the clergy began at 9:30. The hierarchal Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop **NATHANIEL** with four deacons and the priests.

In his homily, the Bishop emphasized the need for unity and cooperation among all of the members of the Church as the Body of Christ, as a gift of the Holy Spirit among the baptized.

Prayers of thanks were offered for the US Independence Day celebration and then the clergy and faithful proceeded from the Lord's table to the Agape in the Pavillion Hall.

There was a short program following the Sunday Banquet. His Grace thanked the delegates and guests for their presence, and introduced Mrs. Rucsanda Sirbu de Bota, thanking her for her generous financial gift to our diocesan Help For Romania program.

The weather was beautiful, the Vatra grounds green and manicured, friendships warm and the food delicious. We look forward to the 1994 Congress and the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of the Episcopate.

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C.O.R.A. AT WORK IN WASHINGTON



CORA members meeting with State Department officials: (L-R) Marge Predeteanu, His Grace Bishop Nathaniel, Carol Stevens, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ralph Johnson, Octavian Cretu, Armand A. Scala, Mark Meyers, John Halmaghi, Corneliu Mohoreanu, Donna Muresan, V. Rev. Fr. Richard Grabowski.

The Congress of Romanian Americans (CORA) sponsored meetings in the Nation's capital between Romanian American leaders, the United States Government and officials of other institutions over June 9, 10 and 11.

A "Briefing Day" was spent at the Holiday Inn, Chevy Chase, where the members of CORA were briefed by experts on Romania. Presenters were from the National Democratic Institute; Helsinki Commission; World Bank; International Monetary Fund; Department of State/Country Officer for Romania, Brady Kiesling; Brooke Foundation, Barbara Bascom; Citizens' Democracy Corps; Agency for International Development; Department of Commerce/Director of East European Affairs. In the evening, a panel discussion was presented by Andrei Brezeanu, VOA; William McPherson, Pulitzer Prize Winner & Author; Nicolae Filipescu, M.D., Ph.D.

On Thursday, CORA reserved a reception room in the Capitol Building where Senators and Representatives and their staffs met with members of CORA and discussed pertinent issues regarding Romania, its moves toward democratization, an open market economy and human rights.

Among those attending were Senators Clayborne Pell, and Richard Lugar, Chairman and member respectively of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Members of CORA expounded their support of "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) status for Romania, with the normal conditions usually demanded by US Law.

The issue of MFN was also discussed with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Ralph Johnson, and CORA complimented the good work of Ambassador John Davis, Jr. in Romania, adding that they would like to see his

VOLUNTEERS FOR ROMANIA?

The Citizens Democracy Corps (CDC) is looking for volunteers to serve in two of its programs, The Business Entrepreneur Program (BEP) and the Citizens Volunteer Program (CVP) in Romania.

The BEP places skilled volunteer business professionals with small and medium-sized companies, to help them develop the business skills necessary to compete in emerging free market economies.

The CVP matches individuals with experience in government, non-profit organizations, or higher education with similar institutions in the region to help strengthen public and private democratic institutions.

Under both programs, volunteers contribute their time and expertise **for two months**. (Volunteers means NO SALARY). The host institutions are responsible for many living expenses, including housing and local transportation, and CDC covers the cost of international airfare.

The CDC is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing volunteers to assist the development of democratic governments and market economies in Central and Eastern Europe and the New Independent States (NIS).

If you would like to volunteer, or would like additional information on the BEP or the CVP, contact CDC at (800) 394-1945 or (202) 872-0933. *

Very Rev. Richard J. Grabowski

appointment be for a full term to represent the new Administration as well as he has the former.

The word from the Agency for International Development (AID) to CORA was that aid for Romania would not be reduced but should even be increased to some degree.

Representatives from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund assured CORA members that their appraisal of the economic situation in Romania was an accurate one. They felt that many things must change in the field of economic development and more foreign investment would be useful to bring about some success in Romania's economy.

The outlook of these two organizations toward Romania is a positive one, providing that direction is given and followed through a mass infusion of funds.

At the present time, there are nine Romanian American organizations represented through CORA.

Other meetings were held with: Congressmen Gordon and Wolf, White House Offices of Public Liaison and National Security Council, Agency for International Development and National Endowment for Democracy.

Through the efforts of Executive Director, Armand Scala, the three days of meetings were informative to members of CORA and, we are certain, to members of Congress and the other institutions with whom CORA met. *

PSA. VICTORIA MOLDOVAN CELEBRATES 80TH

STATEMENT

June 15, 1993



Dna. Psia. Victoria Moldovan and a young lady of the parish, Helena Mancantelli.

May 16, at its Parents' Day Banquet, Holy Cross parish in Hermitage honored a special mother of the parish, Dna. Psia. Victoria Moldovan, wife of the Rev. Fr. Nicolae Moldovan of blessed memory, on her eightieth birthday. Her birthday celebration (her actual birthday is June 8) afforded the parish the opportunity to reflect on the many contributions of Preoteasa Moldovan as well as its own history.

Dna. Preoteasa Moldovan and her husband, Fr. Nicolae, have been part of Holy Cross since they came as a young couple to the Farrell parish on Palm Sunday, April 1, 1934. Fr. Moldovan served as Parish priest until his retirement on December 7, 1975 — one of the longest continuous pastorates in the Episcopate; he fell asleep in the Lord on April 18, 1989.

During the banquet program, presentations were made to Preoteasa Moldovan by each parish organization. Additionally, letters of congratulations were read from the Bishop, Fr. Vasile Hategan (a colleague of Fr. Nicolae), Fr. Laurence Lazar (the son of a colleague) and Fr. Panteleimon Stanciu, Dean of Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Those feting Dna. Psia. Moldovan remembered especially her roles as choir director, her participation in the youth activities of the parish and her unselfish and enthusiastic support of all parish activities. Many of those speaking and writing letters referred to personal remembrances they cherished and the love they have for Preoteasa Moldovan. She was honored as a model wife, a model parishioner and a model preoteasa.

The banquet, which was sponsored by Adela Price and Mariana McMullen, daughters of Psia. Moldovan, in honor of their mother, was well attended by members of Holy Cross as well as by parishioners and friends from Youngstown, Warren, Niles and New Castle. ✱



Members of the Joint Commission (L-R): Frs. George Sandulescu, Romey Rosco, Laurence Lazar, Gregory Becker, Ion Gherman, Nicholas Apostola, Ion Ionita, Richard Grabowski.

We, the members of the Joint Commission of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, and the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America and Canada, established to discuss closer relations between our respective dioceses in North America, met at the Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania on June 15, 1993, during the holy lent of Ss. Peter & Paul and within the shadow of the Great Feast of Pentecost. We met with the blessing of our respective hierarchs: Archbishop Victorin and Bishop Nathaniel and with the approval of our respective diocesan Councils.

After having prayerfully discussed many issues of mutual concern, the one holy Faith that we share, and the history that has shaped us, we unanimously recommend to our respective Hierarchs and Congresses that full, normal ecclesial relations be restored immediately between our respective dioceses, as between any other two canonical dioceses in America, since we see no canonical reasons that would impede this. This is to say, that in the normal course of affairs, clergy may concelebrate, the faithful may commune, and respectful Christian relations and cooperation at the parish and diocesan levels shall prevail. In practice this would mean that clergy transfers, acceptance of clergy from other dioceses, movement of faithful between parishes, and the like, shall follow normal canonical tradition. ✱

V. Rev. Fr. Nicholas Apostola
V. Rev. Fr. Ion Gherman
Rev. Fr. Ion Ionita
Rev. Fr. George Sandulescu

V. Rev. Fr. Laurence Lazar
V. Rev. Fr. Richard Grabowski
Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco
Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The article in the June issue of *Solia* titled "The Spiritual Fathers" has suggested that the laity of the Episcopate churches surrender all of their secular rights in order to "restore the fullness of true fatherhood to our hierarchy and clergy by ridding ourselves of non-Orthodox structures and practices." Webster defines "father" as one who cares for as a father might. As a father I am qualified to comment on this. As a father I reared two children, and my goal was to help them become physically and emotionally dependent upon themselves. Through the years we have also developed an interdependent relationship which has benefited all of us. Simply because I'm their father does not suggest that I am always correct or that they should always follow my wishes, because I am not infallible. This relationship with our spiritual fathers can also carry over to the secular matters of our church.

The writer frequently quotes Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. In one of his quotes he says that "To say AMEN to anything means that I make it mine, that I give my consent to it." Amen is used as a solemn ratification of creed or a prayer in spiritual matters and not in secular matters. The writer did not differentiate between spiritual and secular matters.

The writer stated that the family members, who I assumed referred to the parish members, should act in unison and not in factions or cliques. I belong to a clique in our parish, and the clique served on the church council, served as its officers, volunteered anytime we were asked to help with any activity. We supported the church in any manner we could, and we continually urge others to join our clique.

The writer stated that "We have a continent full of people who call themselves Orthodox but who do not believe that a priest — any priest — is head of a parish." She did not mention spiritual or secular head or if there is a difference. She also alluded to the fact that a nominal number of members do not support the Church because of the structure of the Church. I know these people, and it would take more than restructuring of the Church to receive their support.

I do not disagree with the writer that the direction that a parish takes toward evangelism, education, and charity are the decisions to be made by the bishop and the parish fathers. The priest's responsibility is to keep the parish focused on its true priorities. No one, I'm sure, will dispute these points. But these are spiritual matters. I am not aware of any parish member ever trying to change these "visions." The writer states, "But that is exactly what is happening right now with our **wrong** structures of parish councils and independent auxiliaries that attempted to change the evangelism, liturgy, education or charity aspects of our parish. But rather these groups were concerned with the secular matters of the church,

such as raising and disbursing funds for maintenance of our properties, paying salaries, and other secular matters.

The writer says that as lay stewards "we do not have the right to choose wrongly." Why in the world would we want to choose wrongly? But as the writer continues it is only right if the bishop and clergy choose.

The writer offers Fr. Alexander's definition of "working together" as meaning firstly that the bishop and priest participate by right in all spheres of the parish life, and, secondly, that to them, according to the hierarchical principle, belongs the religious right and duty of sanctioning all activities." I agree that the clergy should participate in all spheres of the church but not dominate. The opinions and viewpoints of all should be respected and considered, and with this attitude we will have a "working together" attitude that the writer alluded to.

The writer says that "The parish must be led by a group of people who are of one heart and mind with the bishop and priest." How can a puppet lead? Up to this point all authority has been stripped from the laity. She continues by saying that the priest should appoint a person who handles the checkbook, but we aren't talking of a "rubber stamp," but only those that utter "amen."

Trust is mentioned where the parish must trust the priest's appointment as treasurer and follow his direction. The priest must trust those he appoints and not seek to dominate them. But it was also mentioned that the people follow the will of the priest. How can this be achieved without domination?

The article suggested that we must do away with majority rule because it is unchristian, it's a pagan way of doing business. I disagree. We here in America enjoy the benefits of a democracy which is a society of majority rule. We have fought in wars to preserve the right of majority rule for ourselves and others. God has rewarded us for these efforts by giving us one of the highest standards of living in the world. I view this as the approval of our society as a whole.

There cannot be harmony between the clergy and laity when the clergy are the dominant figures in all aspects of our parish — especially secular matters.

The writer mentions that converts are "horrified" to come to Orthodoxy and find "the same creeping congregationalism, pervasive protestantism and abusive authoritarianism that they thought they left behind." I don't know where they applied for membership, but this description does not apply to our parish. They should do their homework more carefully before deciding to convert.

To quote the writer, "The survival of our parishes and even our diocese — possibly even Orthodoxy in America — directly depends on restoring true fatherhood." Orthodoxy in America is founded around ethnic groups. Our ethnic identification made our churches strong. We were truly a family bound by our heritage and ethnic background.

Today the ethnic identity of our churches is its weakness.

Continued on page 7

PARISH BULLETIN NOTES

Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity. We received many congratulations and compliments on the way we hosted the church Congress at the Vatra. Our parishioners worked hard, but they enjoyed all the effort expended for the good of our diocese. Both young and old pitched in to make it a great affair. We were pleased to receive a message from His Grace BISHOP NATHANIEL sending us thanks and best wishes for a job well done.

Calgary, AB. St. Mary. Some of the accomplishments of our parishioners: purchased the adjoining property for future development; assisted college students of Romanian descent; re-conditioned much of the church complex; assisted another 79 families in the adoption of orphans from Romania; sent money, food, medical supplies, clothing to Romania; and have given assistance to many.

Regina, SK. St. George. Several new pews, six feet in size, have been donated and will be placed in our church ... We invite everyone to our parish for the AROY Conference at which a retreat will be offered with Fr. Gordon Walker as the guest speaker.

Chicago, IL. St. Mary. Many participated in the Church School picnic sponsored by the Parents Club ... Our parishioners hosted a Pizza Party for the choir ... Fr. Susan was speaker at the AROY Lenten Retreat held at our parish ... He was also the lecturer at the ARFORA Retreat held at the Holy Nativity parish ... a series of luncheons were hosted by the Parents Club to raise funds for our dance groups.

St. Louis, MO. St. Thomas. During our Anniversary weekend, we had a dance on Saturday with a live band and a banquet on Sunday following Divine Liturgy ... The large stage drapes in the Social Hall which had been torn down by vandals have now been beautifully repaired.

Hermitage, PA. Holy Cross. AROY youth enjoyed their outing at Geauga Lake ... Thanks to the workers who cleaned up the woods around our picnic grove; they also repainted the pavilion and sanded

ARFORA/GAVRILA SCHOLARSHIP



Maria Doina Gatej

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipient of this year's scholarship award. **MARIA DOINA GATEJ.**

This young woman was born in Romania and is a graduate from the University Babes-Bolyai, Cluj, Romania,

and refinished all the tables ... A new French drain has been installed around the church to prevent leaks in the basement classrooms.

St. Paul, MN. St. Mary. Our Cook-Out for Fathers Day was well-attended ... Congratulations to our graduates: College — Nicoleta Manciu from U. of Minnesota School of Medicine. High School — Anna Petrescu, Carmen Varga, and Gabriel Varga.

Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral. Congratulations to our High School graduates, Katherine Farah, Natalia Ivascu, and Rachel Rogozan ... also to the students who completed the intensive course in Orthodox studies at Madonna University: Nancy Cocariu, Barbara Nanas, and Richard Rogozan ... We have received a beautiful antique icon, the holy image of the face of Jesus Christ, "Not Made by Hands." We have also received donations for our new office typewriter and for refurbishing our front lawn sign.

Cleveland, OH. St. Mary. Congratulations to college graduate Elena Candea with a BA degree from Baldwin-Wallace College; and to Gregory Hemsoth who graduated from Culver, Indiana Military Academy ... AROY hosted a Brunch in honor of Fathers Day ... We had four visitors from Moldova who came to the

receiving the highest grade, 10, given in the Romanian educational system.

She was a high school teacher for eight years and was involved in various community activities. However, her desire was to become a legal practitioner (lawyer) to be able to serve effectively in her present community, using her knowledge of Romanian, French, Hungarian, and Spanish, as well as her command of the English language. She is now a full time student at the Massachusetts School of Law, Andover, Massachusetts.

She comes highly recommended by the faculty as an outstanding student. She is a dedicated member of St. John the Baptist Church, Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

We award Maria the 1993 ARFORA/Martha Gavrila Scholarship of \$1,000 with our good wishes and pray for God's blessings to help her fulfill her goal to become a lawyer. ✽

Leona Barbu, Committee Chairman

U.S.A. to learn about Minority Rights in this country.

Canton, OH. St. George. Congratulations to high school graduate Alexis Sandru; and to Dr. Michael Tirmonia who graduated with a degree of Medicine ... and to Joanne Mailat who has retired after completing 31 years as a French instructor ... Fr. & Ps. Stanciu appreciate the many items the Ladies Auxiliary recently purchased for the parish house.

Youngstown, OH. Holy Trinity. The Ladies Auxiliary thanks all who made their Rummage Sale a great success ... Our Social Hall and Kitchen sparkle after the recent paint and clean-up job ... Congratulations to high school graduates Marius Sacui and Monica Dragoman.

Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Our combined Annual Family Day Banquet honored church school children as well as mothers and fathers. Honored were 72 students, 13 teachers, and 24 altar boys, with various gifts and certificates. The moms received geraniums and the dads received lapel pins ... During June, we hosted a weekly inter-Orthodox Bible Study Series on the Epistles of First & Second Peter ... Best wishes to Nicolae Barbosa upon his retirement from Ancotec Industries after 27 years of dedicated service. ✽ **Compiled by Florence Sirb**

Graduates

On April 25, 1993, Eastern Michigan University graduated **Marleen Aldea**, daughter of George and Dorothy Aldea of Royal Oak, Michigan. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in mathematics and minoring in science. As part of the education program, she student taught for 15 weeks in a sixth grade math and science class at Baker Middle School in Troy, Michigan. Her work at the school included devising a unit on plant life, working with the staff at school activities and coaching intramural track. She is now awaiting a teaching position in an upper elementary or middle school classroom. Marleen is a member of St. George Cathedral, Southfield, Michigan, and an active member of its AROY chapter. She attended the Vatra summer religious education camps and has volunteered as a counselor and water activities lifeguard.

Dr. Aaron Walters, son of Lena and the late Gabriel Walters, convoked from the University of Waterloo on May 28, 1993 with a Doctor of Optometry Degree.

Aaron will be establishing his practice in Saskatoon in July, 1993.

Congratulations Aaron — we're proud of you!

Love from your family.

Gabriella Michelle Capatina, graduated among the top ten students in her class at Crestwood High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, on June 4, 1993. A member of the National Honor Society, Gabriella participated in the Spanish Club (4 years) and the Science Olympiad (5 years). She will be attending the University of Michigan, Dearborn Campus, this fall. At Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Gabriella has sung in the choir and served as auditor of the A.R.O.Y. Chapter. We congratulate her, as well as her parents, Dumitru & Maria Capatina.

Aurelian Chira, is a recent gradu-

ate of Fordson High School in Dearborn, Michigan, where he participated in soccer and tennis. His plans are to attend Henry Ford Community College and Lawrence Technical University. Aurelian is a graduate of Sts. Peter & Paul Sunday School and has faithfully served as altar boy and sacristan. A member of the A.R.O.Y. Chapter, he is currently an auditor and will be a delegate to the national conference at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, in August. Congratulations to Aurelian and his parents, Aurel & Viorica Chira.

Allison Marie Clarey graduated from Melvindale High School on June 9, 1993, where she participated in varsity softball. She plans to attend Henry Ford Community College, and then the University of Michigan, majoring in Physical Therapy. Allison is a life-long member of Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Dearborn Heights, along with her mother, Mrs. Janet Clarey. Congratulations also to her grandparents, Victor and Evelyn Sekedat.

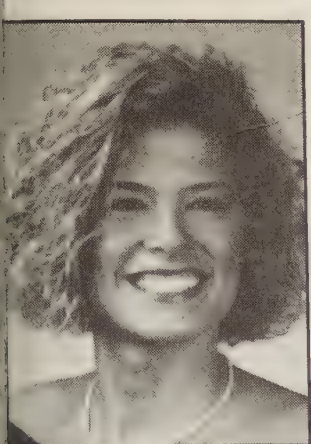
George Kotes graduated with honors on June 5, 1993, from Lake Shore High School in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, among the top twenty students of his class. As a top varsity wrestler, George received many awards and has been offered numerous wrestling scholarships. In baseball, he was named "Fastest Player" for all four years and received the Athletic Achievement Award; in basketball, he was captain of the 1993 All-Star team. George was an honor roll student throughout elementary and high school, participating in all sports. At Sts. Peter & Paul Church, he is a member of A.R.O.Y., a graduate of the Sunday School, and has served as altar boy (10 years) and sacristan (2 years). George has been accepted at Michigan State University and will study Auto Body Design. We congratulate him and his parents, Ronald and Anna Kotes, and wish him continued success.

Joseph John Patyna graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School on May 23, 1993, with hon-

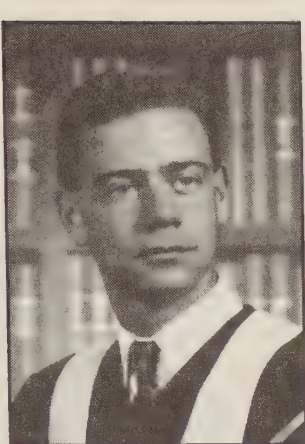
ors in trigonometry. He is enrolled Schoolcraft College (on a scholarship) and plans to later transfer to the University of Michigan. At Sts. Peter & Paul Church in Dearborn Heights, Joseph has distinguished himself by earning the Chi-Rho and the Alpha Omega scouting awards for Orthodox Christians. He is currently president of the A.R.O.Y. Chapter (where he has also served as treasurer) and member of the "Ardeleana" Romanian Folk Dance Group. Joe is also a graduate of the Sts. Peter & Paul Sunday School, and has served many years as altar boy and sacristan. Congratulations to parents, Ted and Maria Patyna, and to Joe's grandmother, Mrs. Anghelina Leahul.

Kimberly Miller, daughter of Alan and Joanne Miller, of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Dearborn Heights, MI, graduated from Plymouth-Salem High School in Plymouth, MI, where she maintained a 3.3 grade point average. Since the age of 2, Kim has been in gymnastics. When a freshman, she became Michigan State Champion, and in her sophomore year, Kim was conference champion, regional champion, and state champion, all in gymnastics. Recently, Kim is competing in the National Championship, and currently holds third place on the balance beam, bringing home the bronze medal for her school and the State of Michigan. Her parents, grandparents, brother, aunts and uncles are very proud of her and the honors she has received over the years as a gymnast. Kim will be attending Eastern Michigan University in the fall, and also be on the Eastern Gymnastic team. Good luck, Kim, in future endeavors.

Congratulations to **Alexis Ann Sandru** who recently graduated from GlenOak High School in North Canton, Ohio. Alexis was a member of the National Honor Society (2 years), Student Council, Varsity Tennis (Most Valuable Player and 4 year letter winner), Buckeye (Ohio) Girl State, and Who's Who Among American High School Students. She also participated in school plays and the Drama Club. Alexis achieved many



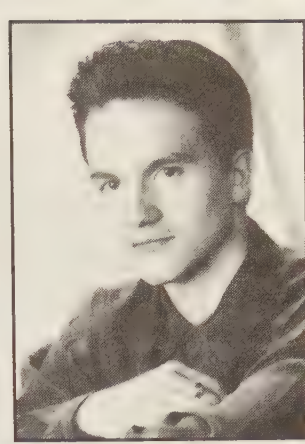
Marleen Aldea



Dr. Aaron Walters



Gabriella Capatina



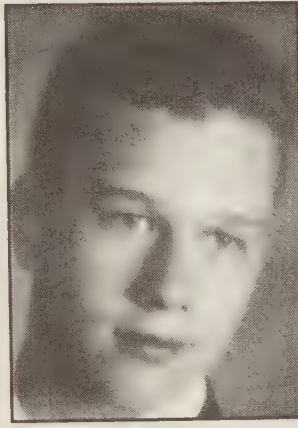
Aurelian Chira



Allison Clarey



George Kotes



Joseph Patyna



Kimberly Miller



Alexis Sandru

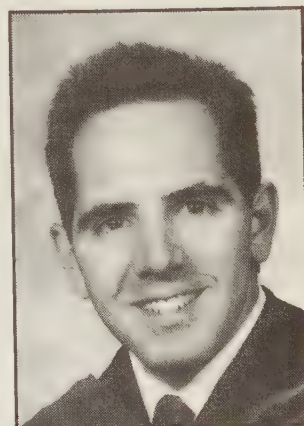
proud parents are Nick G. and Julie Sandru.

Alexis will be attending Wittenburg University this Fall where she wants to study Biological Sciences. She has a desire to enter some aspect of the medical field upon graduation.

Much luck and success, Alexis!

L. Thomas Babu was conferred a doctor's degree in the field of Optometry from Illinois College of Optometry at commencement exercises held at Rockefeller Chapel, University of Chicago, on Sunday, May 23rd. Dr. Babu was also honored with the Raymond P. Klinger, Sr. Award for outstanding service and leadership to the College at the Honors Ceremony held on May 22nd at ICO.

Dr. Babu received his undergraduate degree in Biological Studies from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois in 1989 during which time he was a recipient of the Goldy Scholar-



Dr. L. Thomas Babu

ship. Thomas is the son of Constantin and Louisa Babu of Springfield, Illinois who are members of St. Thomas Romanian Orthodox Church in St. Louis, Missouri and St. George's Greek Orthodox Church in Springfield, Illinois.

Dr. Babu will complete a one-year residency program at ICO before entering private practice. ❀

honors and awards including the Outstanding Life Sciences Student at GlenOak High School. She has served her community as a Rotary Volunteer and Medical Explorer.

Alexis is a voting member of the St. George parish in Canton, Ohio, and has been an assistant Sunday School teacher, AROY member and is currently the AROY president. Her

STANITZ / AROY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The 1993 Stanitz / AROY Scholarships (\$500.00 each) have been awarded to **Oana Elizabeth Pop** of Holy Nativity Church, Chicago, Illinois, and **Alexis Anne Sandru**, of St. George Church, Canton, Ohio.

Oana Pop, the daughter of John and Lucia Pop of Northbrook, Illinois, has been consistently involved in her local AROY chapter since its reactivation in 1988. Additionally, she has involved herself on the National level by being a delegate to National AROY Conferences and attending the Vatra camps. Oana was graduated from Glenbrook North High School in June and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin at Madison to major in Pharmacy and Psychology.

Alexis Sandru, the daughter of Nick and Julie Sandru of North Canton, Ohio, was graduated from Glen Oak High School in June and plans to attend Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, to study Biological Sciences. Alexis attended Vatra camp, was a debutante at a National AROY Conference, and has held the offices of secretary and president (2 years) in her local AROY chapter. ❀



Oana Pop



Alexis Sandru

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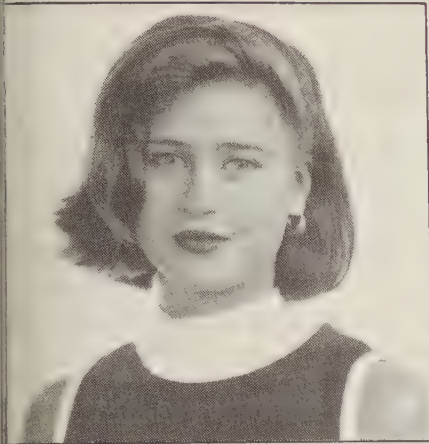
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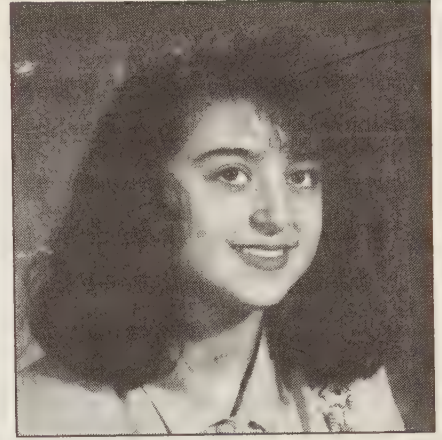
GOLDY & GHEBHARDT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Irina Moroaica



Alexander Marius Sacui



Oana Madalina Petrescu

The 1993 Dumitru Golea Goldy-Gemu Scholarships (\$1,000) have been awarded to **Irina Moroaica** of Huntington Park, California, and **Alexander Marius Sacui** of Canfield, Ohio. The 1993 Alexander O. Ghebbhardt Scholarships (\$1,000) have been awarded to **Oana Madalina Petrescu** of Little Canada, Minnesota, and **Alexis Anne Sandru** of North Canton, Ohio.

Irina Moroaica has completed one year of studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, majoring in accounting and minoring in law. At Huntington Park High School she distinguished herself as valedictorian while involving herself in a wide range of extracurricular activities including tennis, track, drama, music, various scholastic organizations, and community service. She credits her achievements to the love and sacrifice of her parents for her and their perseverance in teaching her Romanian language, ideals, traditions, and especially the ideal of working hard and striving for the best. She concludes her essay by saying: "By valuing education and being a well-rounded, religious person, characteristic of my Romanian heritage, I am bound to be an even better American".

Alexandru Marius Sacui was graduated from Canfield High School, Canfield, Ohio, at the top of his class.



Alexis Anne Sandru

His teachers recommended him for this scholarship because of his intelligence, hard work, artistic talent, athletic ability, positive attitude and leadership qualities. Marius, as he likes to be called, attributes his successes to a "stubborn" perseverance to hold persistently to his goals, beliefs and ideals. The example of his hard working parents and the discipline they instilled in him has helped him to excel academically, athletically (swimming) and artistically. Marius plans to study graphic design in college.

Oana Madalina Petrescu was recently graduated from Roseville Area High School in Roseville, Minnesota, and has been accepted to attend Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, to study pre-medicine.

She is extremely involved in church activities as a member of St. Mary Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she is a member of the choir, SPAROY and the Izvorasul Dance Ensemble. Oana credits her desire to be a physician to her father's example of a great desire for knowledge and an inexhaustible ambition to accomplish his goal of becoming a surgeon. After volunteering in various capacities at hospitals and observing her father at work, she has felt a call to work in the medical field.

Alexis Anne Sandru was recently graduated from Glen Oak High School, Canton, Ohio, in the top 10% of her class. Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, has accepted her to study biological science beginning in August. In high school Alexis highly excelled in academic and extracurricular activities, including tennis, the arts, and community activities. One of her recommendations mentioned that like most scholarship applicants, Alexis possesses scholastic and athletic talents; however, she stands apart from others because she also has strong family and spiritual values. In her essay, Alexis emphasizes that the Orthodox faith has taught her "how to listen to and feel God within me". She is a faithful member of St. George Church, Canton, Ohio, and an officer of the AROY chapter. ✱

VATRA NEIGHBOR PASSES AWAY

Julia Benson Trull Chiolak 1900-1993

The Diocesan Center, Vatra Romaneasca, has its own life in the community of Grass Lake, Michigan, with friends, business acquaintances and visitors who shape a more personal air about that particular life and existence.

One such person was Julia Chiolak. When among guests at the Vatra on Memorial Day, the Hram of the Church or Church Congress, Julia was always asked, "Are you Romanian?" "No, I am not, but my husband John was. But I can speak a little and read some; I know his family in Romania and I have visited them, too." What a remarkable under-statement of facts.

Julia Benson married to her first husband, Frank Trull, and raised a family of two sons, Donald and Richard. She is survived by them and by three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was a school teacher in the Grass Lake Schools and was an active member of the Federated Church. Her first husband died in 1963.

Through the years, before motels were in vogue, delegates to the Church Congresses often rented rooms for the event from local residents. In this way, Julia met John Chiolak; he rented a room from her for many years and finally, they were married in 1972.

She began her acquaintanceship with the Vatra, Archbishop Valerian, whom she greatly admired and upheld, Fr. John plus the various passing monks, clergy and faithful associated with the Episcopate. She watched two generations of children grow, marry and send their children to Vatra camps.

Julia was part of the extended Vatra family, and many of the older generation knew her, loved her and appreciated her. Julia became our "anchor" in the Grass Lake community; not an easy thing to do. We were and, I suppose, remain "strange" to that little township.

We were invited to annual dinners at her home; once a year, at least, she invited the Vatra staff to her home for a "Swedish" meal and a prayer in that language. Afterwards, there were articles to be discussed, some parlor games and, in time, the inevitable "Scrabble" at which she was a "Whiz"!

In the spring, there was an invitation for Rhubarb pie...not a favorite with Fr. John (nor the Archbishop, if I recall). But it was part of our neighborly exchanges, and it was a harbinger of spring and the end of the long Vatra winter! I never failed to have a "second piece" of that or her cookies!

An intelligent woman, a hospitable lady, Julia Benson Trull Chiolak lived a full life. At the age of 90, she took a trip to "see" Alaska! Until her death on April 27, 1993, she drove herself to wherever she needed to go. She maintained her lovely flower gardens, small vegetable garden and sweeping lawns. Her home was a home, not a house; her artifacts were cherished, and she took pride

HIERARCHAL SCHEDULE

June 7, Monday. Ellwood City, PA. Transfiguration Monastery. Spiritual conference with the Sisterhood.

June 8-11, Tuesday-Friday. Washington, DC. CORA meetings with Congress Representatives and various dignitaries.

June 13, Sunday. Rives Junction, Dormition Monastery. Divine Liturgy.

June 20, Sunday. Indianapolis, IN. Sts. Constantine & Helen. Divine Liturgy. Banquet.

June 27, Sunday. Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Divine Liturgy. Celebration of Church Hram. Fellowship dinner and program.

July 1-4, Thursday-Sunday. Vatra. Annual Episcopate Church Congress. ✽

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in the photos of the King and Queen of Sweden, 1 monarchs of her own ethnic background.

Although she was not a particularly demonstrative person in public, she did become accustomed to 1 Romanian double kissing on the cheeks. "My goodness!" she would exclaim, "Isn't one kiss enough?" We dear Julia, the Romanians may be over-demonstrative in some areas but forgive us that fault as you accepted many other of our "ways!" Her passing leaves the Vatra Family smaller and a little colder without her kindness and effervescent ways.

May she rest in peace and may her memory be eternal. ✽

A Neighbor named, NATHANIEL

ST. ELIAS

Continued from page 2

The parish has just acquired the structure of the John Paulencu family, one of the founders, and has moved it to a site near the church. It is in the process of being restored to its 1906 original status. Built in the style of homes of the Bucovina area, the house will be restored and maintained in recognition of the sacrifices of the founding generation of the community.

Work is being done by parishioners, although there is hope that some financial assistance will come from the Province. Anyone interested in assisting with this worthwhile project may send contributions to the address below.

The Bishop, clergy and faithful gathered around the old structure and asked God's blessing and watchful eye for the completion of the work and project. It was blessed inside and around the log walls which still bear some of the original straw and mud plastering. Inside, on the main cross beam there is carved a cross surrounded with flowers and the date, 1906. "If the Lord does not build the house, in vain the laborers toil!"

A festive banquet meal was served at the Inglis Centennial Hall by the Ladies of the parish. Romanian food specialties were abundant. Numerous guest speakers offered congratulations to the community, including members of the legislature, of the municipality and nearby parishes. ARFORA President, Dr. Eleanor Bujea spoke in behalf of the organization, as did Thrisia Pana, Chairman of the Orthodox Brotherhood who also presented the parish with a commemorative plaque.

In the name of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Church, Bishop NATHANIEL presented a Gramata on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the parish to Fr. Joseph and Mr. Burla. Following the speeches, a cultural program of songs was given by members of the parish under the direction of Mr. Chester Holovach, and a suite of dances was performed by the "Miorita" Dance Ensemble from Regina.

Unable to attend the banquet, Fr. Marioncu, Dean of Canada, sent special regards to the parish. He had been parish priest for twelve years. Also unable to attend was Very Rev. Archimandrite Martinian Ivanovici, former Vicar to Archbishop Valerian and parish priest for 12 years. Through His Grace, who had visited him on the Friday evening previous, Father Martinian sent words of congratulations and encouragement to the faithful.

At the end of the official scheduled events, friends and members remained far into the day, renewing acquaintances and reminiscing about the past. Seeing the number of children and young people present, St. Elias can look forward to many more years! (* We have used the English spelling of Elias instead of Elijah for the name of the church.)

ST. ELIAS PAULENCU PROJECT
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CANADA ❀

CONGRESS

Continued from page 5

The following represented the Episcopate Council, their parishes, or national auxiliary organizations as delegates to the 1993 Congress: Akron, OH: Fr. Ian Pacurar, Eugene Widican, George Bursan; Alliance, OH: Fr. Raymond Samoila, George Blebea, Helen Blebea; Bridgeport, CT: Fr. Cornel Todeasa, George V. Fatsi, Aureliu Ciufecu; Brooklyn, NY: Fr. Victor Runcanu, Stefan Mazilu; Canton, OH: Fr. Panteleimon Stanciu, William Cutshall, John Bogdan; Chicago, IL (Nativity): Fr. Simion Pavel, Alexandru Herbert, Mihai Tipescu; Chicago, IL (St. Mary): Fr. Vasile Susan, John Stanitz, Ionel Maiogan; Cleveland, OH: Fr. Remus Grama, Nick Avramaut, John Sibisan; Dearborn Heights, MI: Fr. Romey Rosco, Paul Costea, George Gavrila; Southfield, MI: Fr. Laurence Lazar, Richard Rogozan, Viorel Nikodin; Troy, MI: Fr. George Carstea, Manuela Cruga; Warren, MI: Fr. John Mihut, Ionita Puia; Ellwood City, PA: Fr. Eugen Rosu, Mary Rugh; Elmhurst, NY: Fr. Casian Fetea, Gabriela Cacuci; Hermitage, PA: Fr. John Mancantelli, Charles Rice, Vasile Gheorghiu, John Regule; Fort Wayne, IN: John Zakhi; Merrillville, IN: Fr. George Treff, George Ross, Patrick Velasco; Indianapolis, IN: Brian McDonald, Susan McDonald; Los Angeles, CA: Fr. Constantin Alecse, Marian Sarbu, Virgil Popescu; Miami, FL: Fr. Dumitru Sasu, Stelian Stanicel, Livia Beru; New York, NY: Fr. Traian Petrescu; Elkins Park, PA: Fr. Mircea Marinescu, Ilie Socaciu, John Mocan; St. Louis, MO: Fr. Dimitrie Vincent, Patricia Meyer, Dumitru Popovici; St. Paul, MN: Fr. Michael Cerghizan, Dan Muntean, Phillip Toconita; Tustin, CA: Fr. Cornel Avramescu, Elvira Opran; Warren, OH: Fr. Gregory Becker, Elena DeMartini, Victor Chuka; Alexandria, VA: Fr. Gheorghe Calciu, Elena Ghyka, Nicolae Lungociu; Falls Church, VA: Fr. Alexander Webster, George Codrea, Armand Scala; Woonsocket, RI: Fr. Dumitru Macaila, Dan Zamfir; Youngstown, OH: Fr. Remus Bleahu, John Besoiu, John Farcas; Assiniboia/Flintoft, SK: Fr. Nicolae Marioncu; Dysart, SK: Eleanor Bujea; Kitchener, ON: Avram Srbu; Regina, SK (St. George): Fr. Dan Suciu, Donald Punga, Roger Linka; Regina, SK (St. Nicholas): Bill Murray, Virginia Murray; Toronto, ON: Fr. John Bunea, Dan Chirtu, Constantin Roman; ARFORA: Emilia Pistru, Flora Grossmayer; AROY: Emily Lipovan, Nicholas Gibb, David Porocho; Orthodox Brotherhood of Canada: John Bujea; Orthodox Brotherhood, USA: George Aldea, Valer Pufescu, Jane Martin; Special Accreditation: Fr. Constantin Tofan, Fr. Roman Braga, Fr. Catalin Mitescu; Episcopate Council: Fr. Leo Copacia, Dan Porocho, George Cantor, John Serban. ❀

FINANCIAL REPORT

EPISCOPATE SUPPORTERS

Anita A. Constant, Chicago, IL	\$500.00
Anonymous	\$100.00
Anonymous	\$100.00
Arel Califar, Indianapolis, IN	\$100.00
Mary Marcu, Granville, OH	\$ 50.00
M/M Andrei Muresan, Redford Twp., MI	\$ 50.00
M/M William Murray, Regina, SK	\$ 50.00
M/M Valer Pufescu, Jr., Clinton Twp., MI	\$ 50.00
M/M P.J. Toconita, Jr., St. Paul, MN	\$ 50.00
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M/M Ardalion Istratoff, Southfield, MI	\$ 20.00

GENERAL DONATIONS

Rucsanda Sarbu de Bota, Miramar, FL	\$10,000.00
Tonna Charitable Foundation, Worcester, MA ..	\$1,000.00
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Alexander Blaga Funeral Account	\$1,000.00
M/M Peter Metes, Bloomfield Hills, MI	\$ 301.57
Sorin Botezatu, Morton Grove, IL	\$ 70.00
Dan Manarovici, N. Vancouver, BC	\$ 25.00
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Claire McPhee, Nepeon, ON	\$ 20.00
Petru Radu, Sterling Hts., MI	\$ 20.00
Vicki Stanciu, Dearborn Hts., MI	\$ 15.00
(Dispensation Fee)	

MEMORIAMS

George & Elena Carulea, Youngstown, OH	\$ 500.00
(I.M.O. Sanda Carulea)	
Anita A. Constant, Chicago, IL	\$ 500.00
(I.M.O. Sanda Carulea)	
John Calvarasan, Toronto, ON	\$ 50.00
(I.M.O. Abp. Valerian Trifa)	
John Calvarasan, Kitchener, ON	\$ 40.00
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Iuliana Campean, Grosse Pointe Pk., MI	\$ 20.00
(I.M.O. Valentina Cornea)	
M/M Viorel Nikodin, Farmington Hills, MI	\$ 20.00
(I.M.O. Maria Barbu)	
Octavian Sackash & Family, St. Clair Shores, MI ..	\$ 20.00
(I.M.O. Sofie Sackash)	
Octavian Sackash & Family, St. Clair Shores, MI ..	\$ 20.00
(I.M.O. Fr. John Toconita)	
Anonymous	\$ 14.72
(I.M.O. Marioara DeMintici)	

EPISCOPATE DUES

St. Elias, Inglis, MB	\$ 500.00
Holy Trinity, Vancouver, BC	\$ 300.00
(92-93)	

POST-CONGRESS DONATIONS

St. Mary, St. Paul, MN	\$ 100.00
Vasile Gheorghiu Family, Greenville, PA	\$ 100.00
St. John, Kitchener, ON	\$ 100.00
Anonymous	\$ 75.00
M/M Daniel Miclau, Middleburg Hts., OH	\$ 25.00
Veronica Muntean, Shoreview, MN	\$ 25.00

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 8

ness. Our children and grandchildren do not identify with any ethnic group. They simply say that they are Americans. The average age of our parishioners in our parish is 68. The average age of our council members is 64. Without a large influx of new members in our parish we will cease to exist as a viable parish within 10 years. Our generation, the second generation, is the last large group that identifies as Romanians.

The writer suggests that the survival of our parishes depends on restoring true fatherhood and lessening the influence of the laity. I disagree. We do have a problem with our declining membership, but it must be approached from another direction. I do not have the answer, but decreasing the influence of the laity is not the answer. In the future we must have at least one baptism for each funeral just to keep our numbers even. Working together, in the true sense of the word, is important to the future of our Church. We must not in any way discourage or diminish the desire of participation of our members in our parishes. Working together we will survive. ✽

John Farca

Holy Trinity, Youngstown, Ohio

CLERGY CHANGES

Reverend Father Filimon Barbos has been released from duties at Sts. Constantine & Helen parish, Indianapolis, Indiana, and granted Leave of Absence, effective June 1, 1993.

Reverend Father Leonte S. Copacia, Jr. has been released from duties as assistant priest of St. George Cathedral, Southfield, Michigan, at his own request, effective August 1, 1993. He remains attached to St. George Cathedral. ✽

Victor Leahul, Redford, MI	\$ 20.00
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EPISCOPATE SUNDAY

Presentation of Our Lord, Akron, OH	\$1,202.00
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LADIES AUXILIARY SUNDAY

St. George Ladies Auxiliary, Winnipeg, MB	\$ 90.00
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BISHOP'S (TRAVEL) VISITATION FUND

Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA	\$500.00
Sts. Constantine & Elena, Indianapolis, IN	\$100.00
Presentation of Our Lord, Akron, OH	\$100.00

HELP FOR ROMANIA

Rucsanda Sarbu de Bota, Miramar, FL	\$30,000.00
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CAMP VATRA FOR JUNIORS

National A.R.O.Y.	\$ 3,000.00
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V.M.I. ASSESSMENT

Descent of the Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA.	\$ 880.00
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June 15 - July 21, 1993

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations and subscriptions:

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\$25.00

Lucretia Maciucă, New Rochelle, NY
Mary Calugar, Warren, OH
M/M John Farcas, Hubbard, OH

\$20.00

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M/M Thomas Wiswell, Jacksonville, FL
Mary V. Maddox, Dayton, OH
Lena Ostapiuk, Calgary, AB
John Duduman, Sardis, BC

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\$200.00

Rucsanda Sarbu De Bota, Olivia Dickerman, Presentation of Our Lord, Akron, OH.

\$100.00

Drs. Eleanor & John Bujea, Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH, C. Roman, St. Elias, Ellwood City, PA, St. George, Canton, OH, St. John, Woonsocket, RI, M/M John Stanitz, M/M Mark Vincent

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George & Elena Carulea, Marian Melente

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Fr. Constantin Alecse, Livia Beru, M/M John Boronka, Gabriela Cacuci, Fr. Michael Cerghizan, Anita Constant, John DeMintici & Family, Descent of the Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA, Fr. Casian Fetea, Gordon Galbincea, Fr. & Ps. Remus Grama, Fr. Catalin Mitescu, M/M Ioan Nan, Fr. Traian Petrescu, M/M Richard Rogozan, M/M John Sibisan, Avram Srbu, Stelian Stanicel, M/M Constantin Stanitz, M/M Joe Stevens, Fr. Vasile Susan, Fr. Cornel Todeasa.

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Maria & Petru Adaru, George Aldea, Anonymous, Fr. & Ps. Filimon Barbos,

Irene Blendea, M/M Ioan Braescu, Fr. Roman Braga, Gregory Bucurestean, Alexandru Buzas, Sr. Veronica Crisan, Lenuta DeMartini, M/M John Diakoniac, Maria Gheordunescu, Fr. & Ps. Ioan Ionita, Anna Jonascu, Michael Kalugar, Victor Leahul, Fr. John Mihut, Marie Morar, M/M Alex Nemoianu, Bryan Ott, M/M Marin Popa, Virgil Popescu, John Pop Jr., Fr. & Ps. Romey Rosco, Mary Rugh, Fr. Victor Runcanu, Elvira Sims, M/M Serge Tihan, Fr. Constantin Tofan, Fr. Dimitrie Vincent, M/M John Zakhi.

\$15.00

M/M Dumitru Avram, Adrian Baica, Florence Churilla, M/M Paul Hildreth, Ioan Pacuiaru, Petrescu Family, D. Popovici, Charles Tatomir.

\$10.00

Anonymous, Anonymous, Mircea Banciu, John Bargo, Fr. Romulus Bleahu, Fr. Gregory Becker, Veta Buzas, Maria Ciolac, Nick Cocora Jr., George Deliu, George V. Fatsi, M/M William Fluter, M/M John W. Lazar, Fr. Nicolae Marioncu, M/M George Nasea, Nicoleta Oprea, Ana Petrescu, Tina R. Reeser, Dorina Riscutta, M/M Vasile Rosu, Severin Rosu, Helen Toth, Dr. Barbu Vrancea.

\$7.00

Anonymous.

\$5.00

Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Marie Sztaba.

\$2.00

Anonymous.

SEPTEMBER

ISSUE

DEADLINE:

AUGUST 10

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Alvarez, Alexander Nicholas, son of Bob Alvarez & Polly Evans, Falls Church, VA. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparents: Steven & Sonya McGill.

Arabagian, Stephanie Helen, daughter of Victor & Lidia Arabagian, Jackson Hgts., NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Paul & Arabela Stock.

Baicu, Marc Tudor, son of Paul & Lidia Baicu, Astoria, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Carl & Gabriela Jano.

Barnett, Jonathan Alan, son of Alan Barnett & Maria Udrea, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Panait & Floarea Ionescu.

Boanca, Dakota Sorin, son of Danny & Diana Boanca, Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: George Boanca & Cristine Jensen.

Botezatu, Ana, daughter of Adrian & Stela Botezatu, Carpentersville, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: Valentin & Mirela Dorosan.

Carge, Ryan Joseph, son of John & Karen Carge, Westlake, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: Charles J. Sr. & Marie Sandru.

Chelvedae, Isaac Timothy, son of Leona L. & Timothy M. Cheveldeae, Farmington Hills, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Flintoft, SK. Godparent: Steve Kosti.

Cocioba, Sebastian Ion, son of Serban Cocioba & Aurelia Bilciu, Astoria, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Mihai & Kati Chiriac.

Cojan, Peter, son of Dorel & Carmen Cojan, Canyon Country, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Moise & Elena Fridman.

Copacia, Nicole Jacquelyn, daughter of Tod L. & Sharon R. E. Copacia, Berkley, MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: Mark A. & Kathy Kalugar.

Dinu, Christopher, son of Monica C. & Cristian G. I. Dinu, Woodside, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Vasile Aron & Georgeta Tocaciu.

Draghiciu, Laura Bianca, daughter of Adrian & Stela Draghiciu, Pasadena, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Valentin & Mariana Beianu.

Enache, Emma Maria, daughter of Valentin & Crina L. C. Enache, Troy, MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: Ioan & Michaela Bartoi.

Gokea, Rienzi Patrick George, son of George & Varvara Lesu Gokea, Rego Park, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Nicolae & Carmen Popescu.

Gordan, Anna Catherine, daughter of Sofia Gordan & Avraham Sieler, Rego Park, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Ted & Dorina Garbe.

Grasu, Hronis, son of Stere & Marioara Grasu, Van Nuys, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Sofrone & Elena Grasu.

Ilca, Ion, son of Ioan & Maria Ilca, Detroit, MI. Descent Holy Spirit, Warren, MI. Godparent: Adriana Vidican.

Kempijan, Peter Jonathan, son of Peter & Violet Kempijan, Middle Village, NY. Godparents: Aurel & Ana Muncan.

Khayat-Mofid, Cyrus, son of Fariborz Khayat-Mofid & Aurelia Dobre, Gaithersburg, MD. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparent: Farzaneh Kh-M. Nlotzka.

Kornea, Roman, son of Tiberiu Kornea & Marija Maric, Ridgewood, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparent: Antonela Lotrean.

Kornea, Vladimir, son of Tiberiu Kornea & Marija Maric, Ridgewood, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparent: Antonela Lotrean.

McCormick, John Patrick, son of Bruce P. & Lillian D. F. McCormick, Livonia, MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: John & Violet Rosiu.

Mitrache, Laura Christina, daughter of Ileana & Alexandru Mitrache, Hicksville, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Ioana Mircea Florescu.

Muset, Helen Georgette, daughter of Mihai Muset & Petrula Sme, Brooklyn, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparent: Christia Ziscovici.

Pavel, Anthony Gabriel, son of Ilie & Cristina Pavel, Hillside, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: John & Lucia Pop, Jr.

Radulescu, Nicolae Anton, son of Domnica Radulescu, Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: John & Lucia Pop, Jr.

Rastian, Brian, son of Eduard & Antuaneta Rastian, Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity, Los Angeles, CA. Godparents: Alexandru Antuaneta Alexe.

Sandu, Diana, daughter of Ioan & Valerica Sandu, Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: Pavel & Persida Motorozese.

Shearer, Kimberly, daughter of Charles & Judith Shearer, Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparent: Florin Frenc.

Stolar, Lillian Anna, daughter of Timothy & Carol A. C. Stolar, Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: Paul Stolar, Jr. & Barbara Hanoian.

Tomoiu, Adrian George, son of Marian & Roxana Tomoiu, Rego Park, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Elena & George Popa.

Vlad, Alexandra, daughter of Mihai & Ileana Vlad, Chicago, IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: Cornel & Gabriela Husz.

MARRIAGES

Bolint, Csaba, and **Melania Muresan**, Prospect Hgts., IL. Holy Nativity, Chicago, IL. Godparents: Nicolae & Sofia Medesaru.

Bruma, Paul G. and **Larisa M. Caracuda**, Jackson Hgts., NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Dimitrie & Agurita Vicovaru.

Cioca, Dan C. and **Elisabeta Amarascu**, Elmhurst, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Cornel & Ileana Mergeani.

Craciun, Radu and **Liliana Morariu**, East Lansing, MI. Dormition Orthodox Monastery, Rives Junction, MI. Godparents: Nicolae Sanda Visea.

Cucu, Augustin F. and **Miriam E. Van de Sype**, Monroe, NY. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparent: Claudia Cucu.

Dugulescu, Vasile I. and **Daniella V. Panda**, Philadelphia, PA. Descent the Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Cornelia Rodica Grigoras.

Gherasim, Alexander S. and **Laurie A. Dahroug**, Dysart, SK. St. George, Dysart, SK. Godparents: Gloria Gherasim, Cheryl Adams, Doug Isalin.

Iancu, Paul and **Mihaela Radulescu**, Woodside, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Eduard & Geneve Surmenian.

Moldovan, John and **Maria L. Chereji**, Astoria, NY. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY. Godparents: Gheorghe & Maria Mesaros.

Radanu, Caius and **Anca Iorgulescu**, Morristown, NJ. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.

Veresan, Dorel and **Ileana L. Jura**, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Godparents: Ilya & Ancuta Petrovici.

Weber, Paul W. and **Ana Dan**, Plymouth, MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: Stefan N. & Gabriela M. Tower.

DECEASED

Anchievici, Reveica, 80. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Bica, Madeleine J., 82. Holy Trinity, Vancouver, BC.

Cojocaru, Wally V., 74. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA.

Corla Emilia, 82. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Croiter, Helen E., 87. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA.

Folea, John, 77. St. Mary, St. Paul, MN.

Papadopol, Elena L., 67. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Penescu, Florica, 87. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Popescu, Stefan, 67. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Radulski, Florence M., 63. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI.

Serpescu, Cornelia, 62. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Stanciu, Panta, 74. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Trutza, Ludovica, 96. St. George, Canton, OH.

Udroica, Constantin, 47. St. Mary, Elmhurst, NY.

Zurca, Maria P., 84. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA.

CONGRESUL EPISCOPESC 1993

La al 61-lea Congres Episcopesc s'au reunit preoți și delegați mireni de pe tot în tinsul Americii de Nord. Mulți dintre delegați au reprezentat parohiile sau organizațiile de auxiliare pentru prima dată. Chemați pentru un Congres Legislativ Special, ei au anticipat discuțiile și măsurile legate de amendamentele propuse la Constituția și Statutul în vigoare, precum și raportul Administrației Diocezei noastre.

Conferința Clerului a avut loc cu o zi înainte de începerea Congresului.

CONFERINȚA CLERULUI, Joi 1 Iulie.

Joi dimineața, Păr. Protop. Laurence Lazar, secretarul Consiliului Episcopesc, a oficiat Sfânta Liturghie în Capela Sfânta Maria.

Agenda Conferinței Clerului a inclus următoarele subiecte:

— Preocupările administrative ale parohiilor și responsabilitățile lor față de Episcopie. Cu acest prilej s'a discutat planul de pensionare OCA precum și necesitatea ca tot clerul și parohiile să participe la acest plan. S'au pus în evidență greutățile pe care la întâmpină unii preoți în dobândirea beneficiilor de pensionare.

— Un alt subiect de discuție a fost Planul de Asigurare Medicală al OCA. Li s'a reamintit părinților că acest plan nu este în realitate administrat de OCA, ci este un plan prelucrat pentru noi. Planul este bun dar necesită anumite clarificări ale procedurii administrative.

— Preocupările pastorale s'au centrat pe "Deasa primire a Sfintei Împărtășanii," temă ce a fost prezentată și în conferințele anterioare. S'a luat în seamă și un articol al P.S.S. Episcopul Serafim (Joantă) în care se arată deprinderea unei dese împărtășiri euharistice așa cum este practică în Biserica Ortodoxă Română. P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a insistat asupra dese împărtășiri ca adevărata tradiție a Bisericii. La viitoarele întâlniri ale protopopiatelor se va discuta această temă și se vor face cunoscute Episcopiei observațiile și preocupările clerului și mirenilor în legătură cu această dumnezeiască și Sfântă Taină.

— Activitatea Comitetului pentru Treburile Externe, s'a centrat pe raportul Comitetului Unit al Interdiocezelor, care s'a întrunit la 15 Iunie 1993, la Mănăstirea Schimbarea la Față din Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. Comitetul a discutat cu acest prilej situația prezentă ce există între Episcopia Ortodoxă Română din America și Arhidioceza Ortodoxă Română din America de Nord și Canada. Cu toate că nu există de fapt nicio piedică canonică, preoții din ambele Episcopii nu slujesc împreună Sfânta Liturghie. După prima lor întâlnire, membrii Comitetului Unit au formulat o declarație (comunicat) pe care au trimis-o ierarhilor celor două dioceze.

Clerul a ascultat declarația și a adoptat în unanimitate

recomandația sugerată ierarhilor ca "relații eclesiastice depline și normale să fie imediat restabilite între diocezele respective. Conținutul acestei declarații a devenit "Recomandații" prezentate Consiliului Episcopesc și Congresului.

— S'au discutat amendamentele propuse la Constituție și Statut, despre care delegații au fost înștiințați din timp. Toți au fost de acord că amendamentele reflectă într'adevăr preocupările protopopiatelor și ale parohiilor, precum și a unor parohieni în deosebi. Clerul s'a declarat pregătit să discute și să voteze amendamentele.

— Consiliul Episcopesc s'a întrunit la "Valerian D. Trifa Heritage Center," pentru a revizui raportul pentru Congres și pentru a pregăti recomandările finale care urmau să fie prezentate Congresului.

— Consiliul a recunoscut oficial următoarele comunități misionare: Intrarea în Biserică, Hazelton, PA; Sfânta Ana, Jacksonville, FL; Sfânta Maria Magdalena, Houston, TX; Sfinții Arhangheli Mihai și Gavril, Sacramento, CA; Sfinții Constantin și Elena, Atlanta, GA.

— Membrii Consiliului li s'a prezentat în linii mari estimarea făcută de Susan M. Nelson cu privire la reparațiile și întreținerea tuturor proprietăților de la Vatra. Cheltuielile imediate se ridică la \$91,700, iar cele necesare pentru următorii cinci ani se vor ridica la încă \$244,150.

— Bugetele Departamentale: Publicații, \$118,000; Misiuni \$41,800; Ajutor Creștinesc, \$55,000. Au fost considerate și aprobate, Bugetul pentru Administrarea Episcopiei de \$334,100, și a fost deasemenea considerat și aprobat Bugetul total pentru anul 1993-1994 de \$548,900.

— Comitetul a luat cunoștință de Declarația Comitetului Unit al Interdiocezelor, de recomandarea Conferinței Clerului și a hotărât să sprijine recomandarea.

— A fost discutat de asemenea un articol apărut în "Biserica Ortodoxă" (TOC): Despre problema unei egale participări financiare. În esență, Consiliul Episcopesc și-a exprimat îngrijorarea că n'a fost adus la cunoștința Consiliului tuturor Bisericilor Ortodoxe din America faptul că înțelegerea bilaterală între ROEA și OCA în 1970 a fost realizată între Sfântul Sinod și Ierarhia ROEA și că orice schimbări vor putea fi făcute numai sub semnătura acestora. P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a fost rugat să se adreseze Mitropolitului Theodosie și Sfântului Sinod pentru lămurirea acestei probleme.

— Consiliul Episcopesc a hotărât să se prezinte Congresului următoarele recomandări: (1) considerarea celor arătate în estimatie cu privire la repararea și întreținerea proprietăților de la Vatra, precum și intenția de a cumpăra 35.5 acri. Consiliul propune o creștere de \$10 pentru fiecare membru al parohiilor; (2) proprietatea

Cont. la pag. 20

CONGRESUL

Cont. de la pag. 19

Burgett de 35.5 acri aflată direct în fața Vetrei să fie cumpărată ca o zonă de protecție pentru Vatra.

CONGRESUL EPISCOPESC, Vineri 2 Iulie.

La ora 9:30, P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a deschis lucrările Congresului cu invocarea Sfântului Duh; delegații au răspuns în limbile engleză și română.

După luarea prezenței celor 104 delegați și persoane acreditate, lucrările celui de al 61-lea Congres au fost oficial deschise.

În afară de Păr. Protop. L. Lazar, secretarul Consiliului Episcopesc, Președintele Congresului a numit pe Dr. Eleanor Bujea, secretar general al lucrărilor, Virginia Murray, secretară pentru limba engleză, Manuela Cruga, secretară pentru limba română; Philipp Toconita și Ionel Maiogan, numărători de voturi.

Delegații au primit câte o copie a Prelegerii P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel, care deși a fost prezentată în limba engleză, a avut alături și versiunea în limba română. S'a reamintit Congresului responsabilitatea ce îi revine cu privire la Statut. Prea Sfinția Sa a îndemnat pe participanți să-și exprime părerile asupra rapoartelor distribuite, discutând și aprobând diferitele bugete, a căror total se ridică la \$548,900.00.

În secțiunea "Să ne pregătim pentru Viitor", s'a reamintit Congresului că el are autoritatea să cumpere proprietatea din fața Vetrei, recomandată de Consiliul Episcopesc. Nevoia de a se cumpăra această proprietate e să asigure Vetrei o "zonă de protecție," față de rapidele dezvoltări ale terenurilor disponibile din acea arie. Proprietatea cumpărată va oferi un loc convenabil pentru un nou Centru Administrativ al Diocezei. Actuala administrație care ocupă al doilea etaj din clădirea principală a Vetrei a devenit cu totul neadecuată atât în ceea ce privește echipamentul folosit, cât și siguranța și spațiul necesar pentru lucrările zilnice ale Diocezei.

Prea Sfinția Sa a menționat deasemeni că un spațiu de locuit va fi necesar și în eventualitatea că va avea nevoie în viitor de un Episcop Auxiliar, iar spațiul eliberat de la etajul al doilea din Reședinta Episcopală, va fi ca atare cel mai potrivit loc.

S'a amintit că Congresul precedent a respins trei propuneri de mărire a veniturilor pentru reparațiile și întreținerea Vetrei, dar promisiunile făcute de a se găsi alte mijloace financiare n'au dus la niciun rezultat. Starea clădirilor de la Vatra au făcut obiectul analizei și estimăției de către Susan Nelson, AIA, oferind astfel parohiilor informațiile necesare pentru a acționa imediat în fața obligațiilor financiare.

O altă arie a responsabilității Congresului, indicată de Prea Sfinția Sa, este aceea a "stabilirii unei politici reale în treburile externe." Citând din articolul "Un pas înainte," scris în 1962 de Arhiepiscopul Valerian Trifa, Prea Sfinția Sa Episcopul Nathaniel a reamintit clerului și celorlalți credincioși, că Arhiepiscopul Valerian, a cărui binecuvântată amintire este în inimile tuturor, a descris

schimbarea relațiilor între Episcopia Ortodoxă Română din America și Patriarhia din București, ca fiind urmarea schimbărilor politice care au dus la robia Bisericii sub controlul guvernului comunist. "Revenirea la declarațiile precedente ale autonomiei administrative a fost mai mult un act de apărare decât unul de răsvărire și aceasta a pus Episcopia Ortodoxă Română într-o situație provizorie."

Prea Sfinția Sa Episcopul Nathaniel a descris pe scurt înființarea Comitetului Unit al Interdiocezelor, lucrările acestuia precum și recomandările ce vor fi discutate în plenara Congresului.

Prea Sfinția Sa a schițat apoi lucrările Comitetului care a elaborat, catalogat și tipărit amendamentele propuse la Constituție și Statut. "Veți vedea că aceste propuneri vor îmbunătăți rolul preoților și al mirenilor ca mădulare ale Bisericii Ortodoxe care este Trupul lui Hristos."

Terminându-se prelegerea, primită cu puternice aplauze, Prea Sfinția Sa a propus ca discuțiile legate de lucrările privitoare la Constituție și Statut, care urmau să se țină după dezbaterile celorlalte rapoarte, să li se acorde întâietate.

Au fost numiți ca membri ai Comitetului pentru Amendamente: Păr. Protop. L. Lazar, Pavel, Stanciu, D. Schmidt, Dr. E. Bujea, W. Lipovan, J. Serban, P. Trutz. Președinte P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel. Președintele a propus ca Av. Ronald Muresan să conducă discutarea amendamentelor. S'a hotărât considerarea fiecărui articol în parte. Congresul s'a constituit în întregime ca un singur "Comitet de dezbateri," în cadrul căruia toți delegații s'au poată contribui cu observațiile lor.

În restul zilei de Vineri, Congresul a discutat amendamentele la Constituție și articolele I-IV ale Statutului.

După terminarea lucrărilor și după celebrarea Vecerniei parohia gazdă "Nașterea Domnului" din Chicago, a oferit masa de seară.

SÂMBĂTĂ 3 Iulie, Congresul și-a continuat lucrările cu dezbaterile privitoare la diferitele rapoarte: Agența Arhierască, Situația Clerului, Parohiilor, Evenimente deosebite; Departamentul Educației religioase, Misiunilor, a Ajutorului Creștin, al Publicațiilor, revistei Solia, Administrația Vetrei.

Susan Nelson AIA, a prezentat raportul său delegaților care au cerut și obținut concluziile finale ale estimărilor făcute pentru cheltuelile de întreținere ale Vetrei. Dânsa a îndemnat delegații să viziteze clădirile Vetrei pentru a înțelege mai bine situația și pentru a lua o hotărâre potrivită, când vor trebui să aprobe bugetul.

Revenind la mărturia Ortodoxiei în America, Prea Sfinția Sa a cerut Păr. Protop. Lazăr să lămurească mai bine delegații despre Comitetul Unit al Interdiocezelor și lucrările acestuia. Delegații au urmărit textul "Comunicatului" (declarației) și au fost informați că atunci Conferința Clerului cât și Consiliul Episcopesc au luat cunoștință de același comunicat și l-au acceptat în principiu. Congresul a votat apoi acceptarea Comunicatului; numai câțiva delegați s'au abținut de la vot.

Av. John J. Sibisan a făcut observația că substratul

roblemei având un caracter canonic, Prea Sfinția Sa este el mai indicat să dea soluția cuvenită. Prea Sfinția Sa a menționat că singura lui intenție a fost să afle ceea ce se petrece în inimile preoților și ale celorlalți credincioși, înainte de a răspunde la recomandarea Comitetului. În continuare Prea Sfinția Sa a declarat că va lua legătura cu arhiepiscopul Victorin al Arhidiecezei Ortodoxe Române, pentru "restabilirea imediată și deplină a unor relații normale eclesiastice," între cele două diocenze. Prea Sfinția Sa a clarificat că vom rămâne, ca și până acum, două diocenze distincte, iar prin restabilirea unor relații eclesiastice normale trebuie înțeles doar că preoții din ambele diocenze pot liturghisi împreună în toate Sfintele Taine ale Bisericii, precum o fac deja cu ceilalți preoți ortodocși din alte jurisdicții decât a noastră. Potrivit Statutului nostru, un preot din orice diocenză trebuie să aibe permisiunea Episcopului său, ca și aprobarea Episcopului diocezei unde urmează să slujească împreună Sfânta Liturghie.

Păr. Leonte Copacea, casier și Mark Chestnut, casier adjunct, au prezentat raporturile financiare. Fiecare buget alocat fiecărui departament, pentru anul precedent, precum și bugetul propus pentru noul an, au fost prezentate și aprobate. S'a menționat deasemenea că suma de \$250,000.00 negociată cu First of America Bank va trece în "Trust Accounts," de unde a fost delapidată și ca atare inicio parte a acestei sume nu este alocată pentru administrarea Vetrei.

O moțiune pentru creșterea contribuției de membru, cu \$10.00, a fost propusă și aprobată, cu începere din Ianuarie 1994.

Congresul a reluat apoi lucrările ca un singur "Comitet de dezbateri" în legătură cu Statutul, secțiunile V-IX. În concluzie însă a votat ca, Consiliul Episcopesc să prepare restul textului pentru a fi distribuit parohiilor. După primirea textului, parohiile au trei luni pentru a răspunde cu observațiile lor.

Noul Consiliul Episcopesc: S'au prezentat și acceptat următorii pentru Consiliul Episcopesc pe anul 1993-1994: Aurel Ciufecu, Bridgeport; Virginia Martin, Cleveland; George Ross, Merrillville; Richard Rogozan, Southfield; Avram Sârbu, Kitchener; John Besoiu, Youngstown; Dimitri Popovici, St. Louis; Armand Scala, Washington. Locțiitori: Vasile Gheorghiu, Hermitage, și George Blebea, Alliance. Preoți: Păr. Protop. Laurence Lazar, Simeon Pavel, Casian Fetea, Remus Bleahu, Dan Suciuc; locțiitor: Păr. Remus Grama.

Aleși pentru Tribunalul Episcopesc au fost: Ionel Maioșan, St. Mary, Chicago și Mihai Pipescu, Nașterea Domnului, Chicago.

La încheierea Congresului, P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a mulțumit delegaților pentru participarea lor la sesiunile Congresului; Dlui Mureșan pentru conducerea "Comitetului de dezbateri" al întregului Congres, Parohiei gazda, Nașterea Domnului, din Chicago, Illinois, Păr. Protop. Simeon Pavel; Asociației de doamne din Akron, Ohio, responsabilă cu chioșcul de cafea și dulciuri.

Vecernia a fost slujită în capela Bisericii. Imediat după

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Schimbarea La Față

6 August

"Acesta este Fiul meu cel iubit, întru care am binevoit. Pe acesta să-L ascultați."

(Matei 17,5)

Aceasta este porunca dumnezeiască, ce s'a dat lumii la Schimbarea la Față a Domnului Iisus.

Importanța acestei mari sărbători este că în această zi, Domnul Iisus Hristos și-a descoperit "Slava Dumnezeirii" sale ucenicilor săi pe Muntele Tabor în prezența celor doi prooroci — Moise și Ilie — arătându-le că El stăpânește și peste cei vii și peste cei morți.

Deși Iisus făcea multe minuni și vorbea cum nimeni nu mai vorbise până atunci — totuși — poporul evreiesc, mai ales conducătorii lor, fariseii și saducheii, nu credeau că El este Mesia ci ziceau că El este Ilie sau Moise. Unii credeau că a Înviat Ioan Botezătorul cel tăiat de Irod, sau că este un mare prooroc. Dar Fariseii ziceau: "De ar fi acesta Fiul lui Dumnezeu, n'ar strica legea lui Moise."

Iisus știa despre tot ce zicea poporul, însă primea totul cu resemnare ca prin suferințele Lui să ne răscumpere din păcatul cel făcut de Adam.

Ucenicii Lui însă, se turburau cu mintea când auzeau acestea și nu știau ce să mai creadă.

De aceea Iisus fiind odată în părțile Cezareii lui Filip, a întrebat pe ucenici "Cine zic oamenii că sunt, Eu, Fiul Omului?" (Matei 16, 13-14)

"Dar voi, cine ziceți că sunt?" Și noi știm cum Simon Petru cel fierbinte la credință a strigat: "Tu ești Hristosul, Fiul lui Dumnezeu celui viu." Iar Mântuitorul i-a răspuns: "Fericit ești Simone, că nu trup și sânge ți-a descoperit ție acestea, ci Tatăl meu cel din ceruri." (Matei 16,17) "Tu ești Petru și pe această piatră voi zidi Biserica mea . . . Ție-ți voi da cheile împărăției cerurilor" . . . și tot atunci le-a poruncit să nu spună la nimeni ca El este Hristosul. Conversația este lungă, citiți-o la Matei Cap. 16 vers. 15-20.

Tot atunci, Iisus le-a spus că El trebuie să meargă la Ierusalim și să pătimească dela bătrâni, arhieriei și cărturari, că va fi omorât, auzind de aceasta, mai ales Petru cel râvnitor, a strigat: "Să nu-ți fie Ție aceasta Doamne." Iar Iisus i-a răspuns: "Mergi înapoia mea satano." (Mat. 16, 21-23)

Vrând Iisus să le împrăstie supărarea, după șase zile, a luat pe Petru, pe Iacob și pe Ioan fratele lui Iacob și au suit să se roage pe un munte foarte înalt — Muntele Tabor — unde Iisus vorbind cu Moise și Ilie, s'a schimbat la față înaintea ucenicilor.

Fața i-a strălucit ca soarele, iar veșmintele i s'au făcut albe ca zăpada și un nor luminos i-a cuprins pe ei, acoperind tot muntele. Știm cum Sfânta Scriptură, precum și icoana Schimbării la Față, ne arată cum ucenicii de spaimă, au căzut pe pământ, fiind aproape morți.

Și că, au auzit un glas din nor, zicându-le: "Acesta este Fiul meu cel iubit. Pe acesta să-L ascultați." (Matei

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Apoi norul precum și proorocii au dispărut și tot în acel moment, slava lui Dumnezeu s'a depărtat dela ochii lor, iar Iisus rămânând singur s'a atins de Apostoli și le-a poruncit să nu se teamă și să nu spună la nimeni ce-au văzut, până după patima, moartea și Învierea sa cea de a treia zi (Mat 17, 4-9)

De ce a luat Iisus numai pe acești trei Apostoli pe Munte?

Pe Petru l-a luat, pentru că avea mai multă dragoste și râvnă către Hristos decât toți Apostolii.

Pe Iacob l-a luat pentru că se făgăduise că va bea paharul care Iisus îl va bea.

Iar pe Ioan, pentru că îl iubea Iisus mai mult decât pe toți ucenicii — pentru curăția, înțelegerea, înțelepciunea, și pătrunderea lui adâncă, în cele spirituale.

Toți cei trei Evangheliști au scris despre Iisus, lucruri istorice . . . omenești : cum s'a născut, unde, care-I este descendența . . . etc.

Numai Ioan este cel ce ne arată pe Iisus "Dumnezeu și Creator."

"La început era Cuvântul și Cuvântul era la Dumnezeu și Dumnezeu era Cuvântul. Toate prin El s'au făcut și fără El nimic nu s'a făcut. În el era viață, și viața era lumina oamenilor." (Ioan 1,1-5)

De ce și-a arătat Domnul Iisus Hristos Dumnezeirea Sa înaintea Ucenicilor?

Pentru că peste puține zile, era să fie dat pe mâna necredincioșilor evrei, ca să sufere și să fie răstignit și omorât. Iar dacă ucenicii îl vor vedea legat, bătut și batjocorit, nu cumva să li se pară că El nu este Dumnezeu adevărat — și să-și amintească de slava și lumina ce strălucise înaintea lor și de frumusețea chipului ce văzuse pe Muntele Tabor, ca astfel să înțeleagă că El, Iisus, de bunăvoie rabdă toate acele chinuri, pentru mântuirea noastră.

"Acesta este Fiul meu cel iubit," a răsunat pe Tabor, umplând văzduhul, pentru a-2-a oară, căci prima mărturie a fost pe țărmurile Iordanului când Iisus a fost botezat de Ioan Botezătorul.

Deci, pe Tabor a fost o întărire a cuvântului ce s'a auzit la botez.

Pe Tabor s'a desăvârșit — **recomandarea către omenire** — cum că Iisus este Fiul lui Dumnezeu, dar cu **porunca**: *"Pe acesta să-L ascultați"* (Mat. 17,5)

Oare cui s'a dat această poruncă?

Numai celor 3 Apostoli înspăimântați? Sau numai Iudeilor despre care Iisus zicea: *"Sunt trimis către oile cele pierdute ale casei lui Israel?"*

Nu, iubiți credincioși! Porunca *"Pe acesta să-L ascultați"* este o datorie pentru noi toți, fiii Bisericii lui Hristos.

Iisus Hristos este — Cel mai mare — sau Unicul învățător și povătuitor — al omenirii, sau singurul care merită acest nume.

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Parohia Ortodoxă Română "Pogorirea Duhului Sfânt" din Warren, Michigan.

INVITAȚIE

Consiliul Parohial și Reuniunea de Doamne dela Parohia Ortodoxă Română "POGORIREA DUHULUI SFÂNT" din Warren, Michigan, dela adresa: 31500 RYAN ROAD, vă invită cu mult drag să luați parte la Sfintele Slujbe de Sfințire ale noii noastre Biserici Parohiale, ce vor avea loc în zilele de 4 și 5 Septembrie 1993.

Lucrările de proiectare și de construcție a noii Biserici Parohiale au început în anul 1987 și vor fi terminate cu ajutorul lui Dumnezeu în vara acestui an. Valoarea construcției Sfintei Biserici, pictarea și mobilierul, precum și celelalte utilități se ridică la suma de aproape două milioane de dolari, iar numărul membrilor Parohiei noastre este de numai 300. De aceea îndrăznim, în numele dragostei noastre creștine și al frățietății noastre românești, apelăm la toți aceia care au posibilitatea să ne ajute cu o donație cât de mică, înscriindu-vă astfel numele printre cei care contribuie la înălțarea Sfintei Biserici. Orice donație pentru noi va însemna foarte mult. Menționăm că momentan avem de plătit la Banca Națională din Detroit (National Bank of Detroit) suma de un milion de dolari.

Încredințându-vă că numele tuturor donatorilor vor fi pomenite la Sfintele Slujbe pentru sănătatea și mântuirea noastră, vă mulțumim cu recunoștință și vă așteptăm cu drag la sfințirea noii noastre Biserici Parohiale.

Preot Paroh IOAN MIHUȚ Președintele Consiliului Parohial: CRĂCIUN ALMĂJAN; Vicepreședinte: CRĂCIUN IACȘA; Epitrop I: ILIE NEDA; Epitrop II: ION PĂCURARU; Casier: GEORGE ARDELEAN, JEAN; Secretarul Consiliului Parohial: REMUS PASCU; Președinta Reuniunii de Doamne: DOINA SAMOILĂ; Vicepreședintă: BISERICA RUGILĂ.

delegații și vizitatorii s'au bucurat de măiestria
urilor populare executate de Echipa de dansuri
ninescu din Regina, Saskatchewan, care s'a întrecut în
numărate dansuri din diferite regiuni ale României.
upul și-a plătit singur cheltuelile de transport până la
tra.

DUMINICA 4 Iulie, Utrenia a fost slujită în Biserica
ora 8:30 și la ora 9:30 a început procesiunea clerului.
nta Liturghie Arhierească a fost slujită de Episcopul
thaniel împreună cu patru diaconi și toți ceilalți preoți.
In predica sa, Prea Sfinția Sa a subliniat unitatea
embrilor Bisericii ca un singur Trup al lui Hristos și
munitatea membrilor ei întru sălășluirea Sfântului Duh
cei botezați în Hristos.

Rugăciuni de mulțumire s'au adus pentru Ziua
dependenței Statelor Unite; apoi clerul și ceilalți
necredincioși s'au îndreptat de la masa Domnului la
gapa creștinească din Pavilionul Vetrei.

Banchetul de Duminică a fost urmat de un scurt pro-
am. P.S.S. Episcopul Nathaniel a mulțumit delegaților și
vizitatorilor pentru prezența lor și a mulțumit Dnei
Icsanda Sîrbu de Bota pentru marele ei dar de bani dat
ndului "Ajutor pentru România."

Cu toate că vremea a fost frumoasă, pajiștile Vetrei
rzi și îmbietoare, prietenii vechi și noi calde și mâncarea
arte bună, sfârșitul Congresului a fost întrucâtva întunecat
în absența unora de la Banchet precum și prin plecarea
ăbită a altora după ce au mâncat. Poate că în viitor, un
recare respect va putea fi acordat vorbitorilor de la
ârșitul programului precum și un ultim "la revedere"
pă rugăciunea de închidere. ✽

Participant

NECROLOG

Alexandru Blaga s'a născut la 30 Mai 1914 în satul
Sarcad Jud. Bihor, fiu al lui Teodor Blaga și
Maria Ecaterina Silaghi. Tatăl lui a murit pe
front în ultimele zile ale primului război mondial. Din
1919 a locuit împreună cu mama sa și bunicii în comuna
MĂDĂRAȘ Jud. Bihor unde a făcut școala primară: A
terminat liceul "Emanuil Gojdu" din Oradea unde a luat
bacalaureatul în Iunie 1933. Din 1933 până în 1937 a
urmat cursurile Academiei Teologice din Oradea unde a
absolvit examenul final cu "Foarte bine." A trecut apoi la
Facultatea de teologie din Cernăuți unde a luat diploma
în 1939. A fost coleg, printre alții, cu fostul Mitropolit
Nicoale Mladin; din 1939 până în 1941 a fost profesor în
România.

În timpul războiului a făcut armata și după război a
trăit, în refugiu în Germania, până în 1948. A plecat apoi
la Paris, unde a fost numit secretar al Mitropolitului
Visarion Puiu. În Iulie 1956 pleacă în Statele Unite,
trăind un scurt timp în regiunea Chicago și Gary, Indi-
ana.

În Februarie 1957 a fost numit profesor de limbă
română la Defense Language Institute, Fort Ord,
Monterey California, de unde s'a pensionat în 1988.

Imbolnăvindându-se de cancer a suferit câteva luni, și
după două operații, și-a dat duhul în zorii zilei de 27
Iunie 1993, la Monterey, California.

Conform dorinței sale, Profesorul Alexandru Blaga, a
fost prohodit la slujba Sărăcusei în Pacific Grove, Cali-
fornia de Părintele Ion Sîrbu dela Parohia Învierea
Domnului din Oakland-San Francisco și de Pr. Richard
J. Grabowski, fost paroh în California și prieten, care s'a
ocupat și de toate aranjamentele. Transportat cu avionul

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CHIMBAREA

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Proorocii L-au vestit ca lumină a neamurilor și aducător
mântuire a întreg neamului omenesc. "Iată l-am pus
artor pentru popoare — căpetenie și învățător al
amurilor." (Isaia 55,4)

Iar când s'a arătat Mântuitorul în lume, El însuși a zis
spre sine: "Eu sunt lumina lumii, Cine-mi urmează
ie, nu umblă în întunec ci are lumina vieții," (Ioan
12) sau "Eu de aceea am venit în lume, ca să mărturisesc
levărul." (Ioan 18,37) "Iar voi să nu vă numiți învățători,
ici unul singur este învățătorul vostru, Hristos." (Matei
3,10)

Iisus a vorbit omenirii, cum n'a mai vorbit nimeni
ână atunci. El s'a străduit, atât prin cuvânt, cât și prin
templul vieții sale, să arate oamenilor calea spre cer,
ore viața veșnică. "Pildă v-am dat, ca și voi să faceți
um am făcut Eu." (Ioan 13,15)

Și astăzi, Mântuitorul ne vorbește ca atunci când
trabătea drumurile țării sfinte. El își continuă slujba de
vățătură și povățuire prin sfânta Lui Biserică.

Tot ce-au auzit și văzut Sfinții Apostoli câtă vreme au
fost cu Iisus, toate s'au scris și ni s'au transmis nouă
creștinilor, ca moștenire și poruncă.

Cuvintele lui Iisus sunt lumină pentru toate vremurile!
Sarea pământului care conservă lumea de stricăciune!
Aluat care face să dospească toată frământătura societății
omenești. "Cuvintele pe care vi le grăiesc Eu sunt Duh și
viață." (Ioan 6,63)

Sfântul Vasile cel Mare, într'o scriere a sa, numește
Sfânta Evanghelie "Atelierul sufletelor" și "farmacia
plantelor duhovnicești."

Învățătura Domnului nostru Iisus trebuie să ne fie
"regula de aur" a vieții noastre, în toate împrejurările și
lucrurile ce le avem în legătură cu oamenii și cu societatea.

Să gândim, să vorbim și să ne conducem după poruncile
Domnului.

Iar datoria ce ne revine este, nu numai recunoștința că
ni s'a dat un astfel de "Învățător" ci mai ales, trebuie să
păzim poruncile Tatălui ceresc.

"Pe acesta să-L ascultați!"

Amin! ✽

Maica Benedicta

Comunitatea românească din Queens, New York, strânsă în Parohia Sfânta Maria, în dorința de a avea un loc de închinare demn de tradiția creștină a Neamului nostru, cât și pentru a lăsa o mărturie a contribuției credinței Românești la îmbogățirea tezaurului spiritual al Americii, cu încredere în ajutorul lui Dumnezeu, a hotărât să reconstruiască din temelii actuala clădire pentru a înălța o adevărată

BISERICĂ ROMÂNEASCĂ

pentru rugăciune și reculegere, și o

SALĂ SOCIALĂ

necesară manifestărilor culturale ale românilor din New York.

În vederea atingerii acestui scop înalt, arhitecți, ingineri, tehnicieni și artiști români au lucrat benevol și cu dragoste la realizarea planului de construcție. Acum este nevoie și de un efort material pentru începerea și ducerea la bun sfârșit a lucrărilor.

Pentru aceasta, în numele dragostei noastre creștine și al frăției Românești, apelăm la toți cei care au posibilitatea să contribuie cu o donație cât de mică, înscriindu-și astfel numele printre ctitorii și binefăcătorii acestei Sfinte Biserici, prima Biserică Românească din New York ridicată ca atare.

Încredintându-vă că numele tuturor donatorilor vor fi pomenite la Sfintele Slujbe pentru sănătatea și mântuirea lor, vă mulțumim cu recunoștință și vă așteptăm, cu voia lui Dumnezeu, la sfințirea noii Biserici Românești.

*Consiliul Parohial al Bisericii Sfânta Maria
Queens, New York*

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la Detroit, Michigan, sicriul a fost apoi adus la Vatra unde slujba înmormântării a fost în capela Sf. Maria. A slujit: Pr. Arhimandrit Roman Braga, și preoții Laurențiu Lazăr, Cătălin Miteșcu, Constantin Tofan și Richard Grabowski. Prea Sfinția Sa Episcopul Nathaniel a citit rugăciunea de dezlegare și a ținut predica. Răspunsurile au fost date de un grup de mamele dela Mănăstirea "Adormirea Maicii Domnului" din Rives Junction, Michigan. Rămășițele pământești au fost îngropate în Cimitirul Sfânta Maria dela Vatra.

Dupa înmormântare s'a servit o pomană la Vatra. În dorința a răposatului a fost ca, donații în memoria sa, să fie făcute la parohia "Învierea" din Oakland, California 94610 - 124 Montecito Ave.

În numele fratelui rămas în România, mulțumim tuturor care l-au vizitat pe Alexandru Blaga la spitalele celor care au venit la Sărăcustă și la înmormântare.

Părintele Richard J. Grabowski

AJUTAȚI-NE



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